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VOL. 4 - NO. 6



TO CRITICS OF COMICS

READ THESE EXCITING ADVENTURE
STORIES. SEE HOW CAREFUL EDITING
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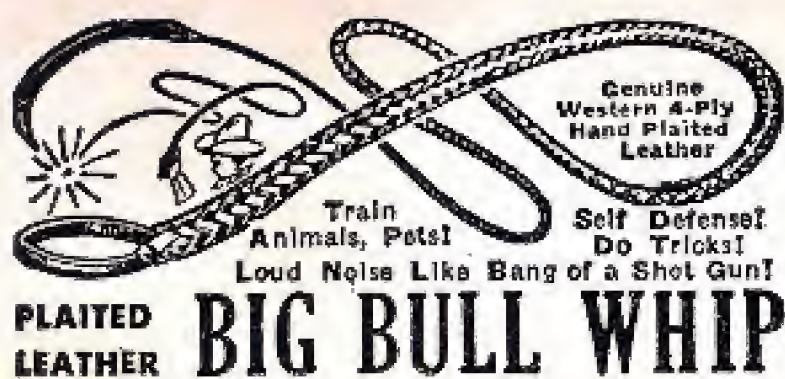
NO. 9

10¢



THERE WAS
MURDER ABOARD THE
STEAMER AND ONLY
ONE MAN COULD
HANDLE THE CASE...

**Young
King Cole**



PLAITED LEATHER
BIG BULL WHIP
Experts knock ashes off cigaret, gun out of hand, yank people off feet, etc. Used by trainers, ranchmen, etc. Grip lightly (pressure is on loop), then crack or coil; snake out or back; overhand, underhand, side-arm. Neat's oil finished for pliability & long life. "Cracker" or tongue on end. Solid grip handle with loop.
6-ft Whip \$1.98. 8-ft Whip \$2.49.

10-in. Balanced Throwing Knife 99c
Hunt small game, target work, regular use. Double-edged penetrating point. Hard hitting. Balanced for easy accurate throwing. Cutlery steel. Only 99c (Shooth 50c. Knife Throwing Book 15c). Deluxe Chrome Knife \$1.49

"Horror" Rubber Masks
"Come to Life" when worn. Thin latex rubber. Amazingly realistic. Eat, drink, smoke, talk with them on. Head mask fits entire head down to collar.
Gorilla (Ape) Face Mask 98c
Hairy Gorilla Head Mask \$1.98
Baboon Head Mask \$1.29
Neanderthal (Cave) Man Head Mask \$1.98
Frankenstein Horror Mask 80c

Pellet 10-Shot Automatic
Shoots 10 pellets as fast as you pull trigger. For indoor target work & fun. Automatic action. Holds 10 pellets. Full size model of Colt .45. 6 1/2-in. long. Plastic moulded. Moving parts of die cast metal. With supply of pellets. (Holster 50c. Extra Pellets 25c pkg.) Set.....
\$1.65

HIGH VOLTAGE FUN
Develop 380,000 Volts
With This You Can Create Spectacular
Bells operating model of full-size electrostatic generator that aided in development of atomic bomb. Develops up to 380,000 volts. Complete bill of materials & step-by-step construction details. Easy to build. Do many fascinating experiments.
No. 1065.
Construction Plans.....
98c

LIVE CHAMELEON
See It Change Color!
Wonderful pet. Watch it change color. From 3 to 5 inches long. Easy to keep. (Complete description on another page). Live delivery guaranteed. Allow 15 days for delivery.
Live Chameleon (Pair \$1.25)
No. 5303. Cham. Food. Pkgs. 25c
No. 4302. Label Pin & Cord.....15c

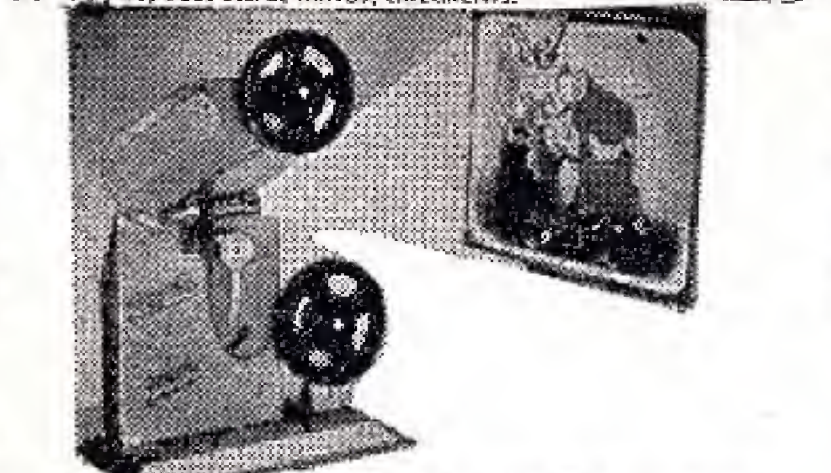
GIANT HORRIBLE RUBBER HANDS
Slip on these ugly ghoulish hands and watch the fun. The horrible claws & ghastly wounds. Even a scare Frankenstein Pair of 2 for \$2.20.
EACH. Postpaid.....
\$1.25

STINKY STINK BOMB
Gives off a powerful, horrible stink. Each bomb in plastic case. Just break or tear plastic. Easily concealed. Release when convenient. Non-liquid. Use in many ways. "The Odor Licks."
No. 2003. Price, 3 for 25c
53c per doz. — \$5.95 per 100.

SPOOK SHOW AT HOME
Chiller-thriller "supernatural" effects. Easily performed at home, parties or on stage. Uses only a few simple props. 10 different effects. Complete directions.
No. 3754.
Spook Show. Price.....
98c

Easy Ju Jitsu & Body Builder
BEAT UP BULLIES TWICE YOUR SIZE AT ONCE! Makes weaklings powerful. IMMEDIATELY! 10-second Colliers, Coronet, New Yorker, Tide & other magazine & muscle builder. Used by G-men, detectives, zines wrote about this interesting catalog. More fun secret army training. Over 125 tricks, 175 illustrations, than carnival, circus, world's fair & science exhibit 204 pages. Worth \$10.
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HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRIC SHOCKER
GIVES A REAL, POWERFUL ELECTRIC SHOCK. HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRIC GENERATOR. USE FOR FUN, "ELECTRIC CHAIR" SHOCKING SEAT, SHOCKING BOOKS, SICKING WHEEL, ETC. ATTACH ANYWHERE. ALSO LIGHTS LAMPS, DOES USEFUL THINGS, EXPERIMENTS.
PRICE POSTPAID \$3.95



8 mm. Electric Movie Projector
Projects bright, sharp movies using standard 8 mm. color or black & white film. Completely portable. Projects up to 3-feet. All steel construction, gray hammeroid finish. Precision ground polished lenses. Takes up to 200-ft. reel. With table top screen & easel stand. 11" high, 5x10" base. Uses 2 standard flashlight batteries.
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50-ft. Films. Cartoon comedy, Western, Tarzan, etc. Your choice, \$1.95 each.

PRECISION MINIATURE CAMERA
Less than half size of regular cigaret package! Weighs 2 1/4 ounces. Takes surprise, candid & regular pictures. Solid, all-metal construction, leather-lined body, chrome trim. Enclosed eye-level view finder. Single action, 1-25-sec. or time shutter. Precision ground lenses. Takes 10 1/2x1 1/4 in. pictures per roll (16 mm. film). Fine enlargements from negatives.
No. 4898. Camera Only. Price.....**\$1.50**
No. 4897. Camera with Pigskin Leather Ever Ready Case.....**\$1.95**
No. 4896. Film. 15c per Roll; 3 rolls.....**40c**

BROADCAST THRU YOUR RADIO
Broadcast your voice on programs coming through your radio set—make announcements from any part of the house—inject wise cracks, sing or mystify friends. "Radio Mike" made especially for home use. Attached in a jiffy. Also put on own programs at home, parties, club affairs. Barrels of fun. Easy to operate.
Radio 'Mike' \$1.50

Skull Ring
Sparkling set stones in eyes. Silver color. Sterling Silver \$1.98
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Big wolf head, red tongue. Silver finish.....**\$1.50**

BIG BOOM CARBIDE CANNON
\$4.40
Sounds like dynamite blast! BRILLIANT FLASH! Mighty roar echoes for blocks. Fine fully 4th holsemaker, starting gun, celebrations, etc. Safe. No recoil. Hundreds of shots for few cents. Uses carbide. Fast firing. Attractively made of heavy cast iron. Money back guarantee. 9-in. Cannon \$3.95 plus 45c post, SEND \$4.40. 17-in. \$8.95 plus 55c post, send \$9.50. Ammunition 39c tube (500 shots); 3 tubes \$1.00 postpaid.

New Ram Jet Engine Burns Gasoline!
Powerful continual thrust for models, boats, cars, planes. No moving parts. Easy to start. Runs on gas. About 6-in. long. Complete. Only.....
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250-Power Telescope Lens Kit
Brings distant objects 250 times closer!
See Craters on Moon, Saturn's Rings, Moons of Jupiter, etc.

NEW! 250 POWER TELESCOPE LENS KIT
Lens Are Completely Finished and Polished
See Craters on Moon! Rings of Saturn! Moons of Jupiter! Double Stars! Observe the Man-Made Satellite! Amazing magnification of distant objects. Full 250 Power Magnifies 62,500 times Area!
Complete lens kit consists of 80-inch focal length ground & polished 50 mm. objective lens, eyepiece lenses for 50-100-150-200-250 power magnification, plus all lens fittings. Easy to make from step by step instructions. (Tripod & mount not included) **\$3.50**
No. 6004A. 250-Power Lens Kit. Price Postpaid



MINIATURE PISTOL—World's smallest pistol, made by a German gunsmith, is only 1 1/2" long and together with cartridge expeller and 25 blanks, weighs exactly 1/2 oz. Yet it fires with a tremendous bang. Nickel-plated steel; hand scrollwork on butt; full cock; barrel breaks; 25 blanks. \$3.95 ppd.
150 SHOT BB REPEATER PISTOL

New BULLS-EYE 150 Shot REPEATER.
Hard hitting. Accurate firing. Centers shots in 1-inch circle at 10 feet. Shoots 30 shots a minute. Sights, feels, looks like expensive match pistol. Thumb-palm moulded checkered plastic grips. Blued steel. Shoots standard BBs. 25 shots for 1c. 10 1/2-in. long; weighs 1-lb. Adjustable pump-on-open sight. Includes 2 tubes BBs. Price \$4.95, plus 50c ship, charges. SEND.....**\$5.45**
Copper-Coated Steel BBs, 3 Pkgs.....25c

GIANT BALLOONS
GIANT 12 FT. METEOROLOGICAL BALLOONS ought to open eyes at the beach—or when used as an advertisement at openings, gas stations, sports events, etc. Made of finest long-lasting neoprene rubber, and easily inflated with gas or air, these blow up from 12 ft. to 18 ft. high. Gov't surplus.
Postpaid.....**\$2.95**

"ELECTRIC" SHOCKER
Famous "Joy Buzzer" gives real SHOCK! worn like ring, concealed in palm. Gives "em violent SHOCK when you shake hands. Put in bed, on chair, tickle & shock girls from behind. Against wall or window produces TERRIFIC RACKET. Ticks like a mouse, shocks like electricity. Spring-wound clockwork mechanism. Greatest joke ever invented. (Get 3 for \$1.35)
"ELECTRIC" SHOCKER.....**50c**

Pocket Transistor Radio
"Hit Parade" Mighty Midget

Low Price! Smart Design! Marvelous Reception!
Size of cigaret package, yet thrilling performance. Weighs only 3 ounces. Listen while traveling, at ball game, in home or office or school. Includes speaker-phone for private listening. Modern two-tone moulded plastic case, gold metal grille. Complete broadcast band. On-off switch one end. Uses standard penlight cells (included). Guaranteed.
Complete, ready for immediate playing. Postpaid Only **\$5.95**

Catalog of 3200 Novelties, Jokes, Tricks

Send 10c today for this amazing new catalog of 3200 novelties, gadgets, tricks, jokes, funmakers, hobbies—and thousands of things you never knew existed—never knew where to get! Hundreds of useful items, too, including office & household timesavers, educational hobbies, jewelry, optical & sports goods, etc. Partial contents:

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Rings	Plants	Timesavers	Science Items	Imported Goods	And Many
Games	Models	Funmakers	Handicraft	Whips	Other Things
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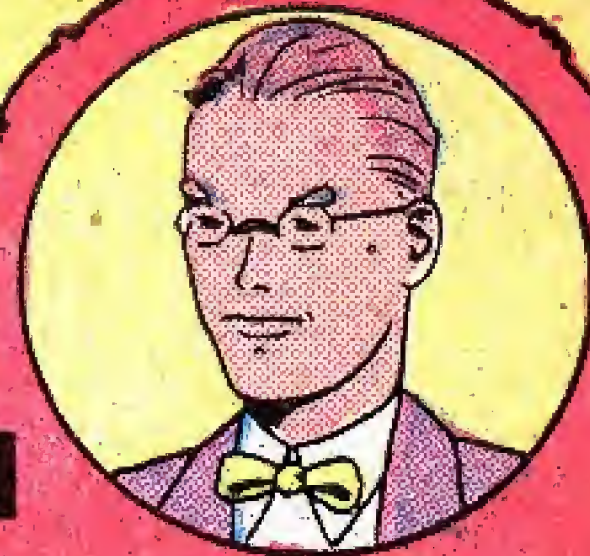
New!

Here's 10c. Rush me New Catalog!
Name.....
Address.....
The Catalog Featured on Cover of "Mad" Comics

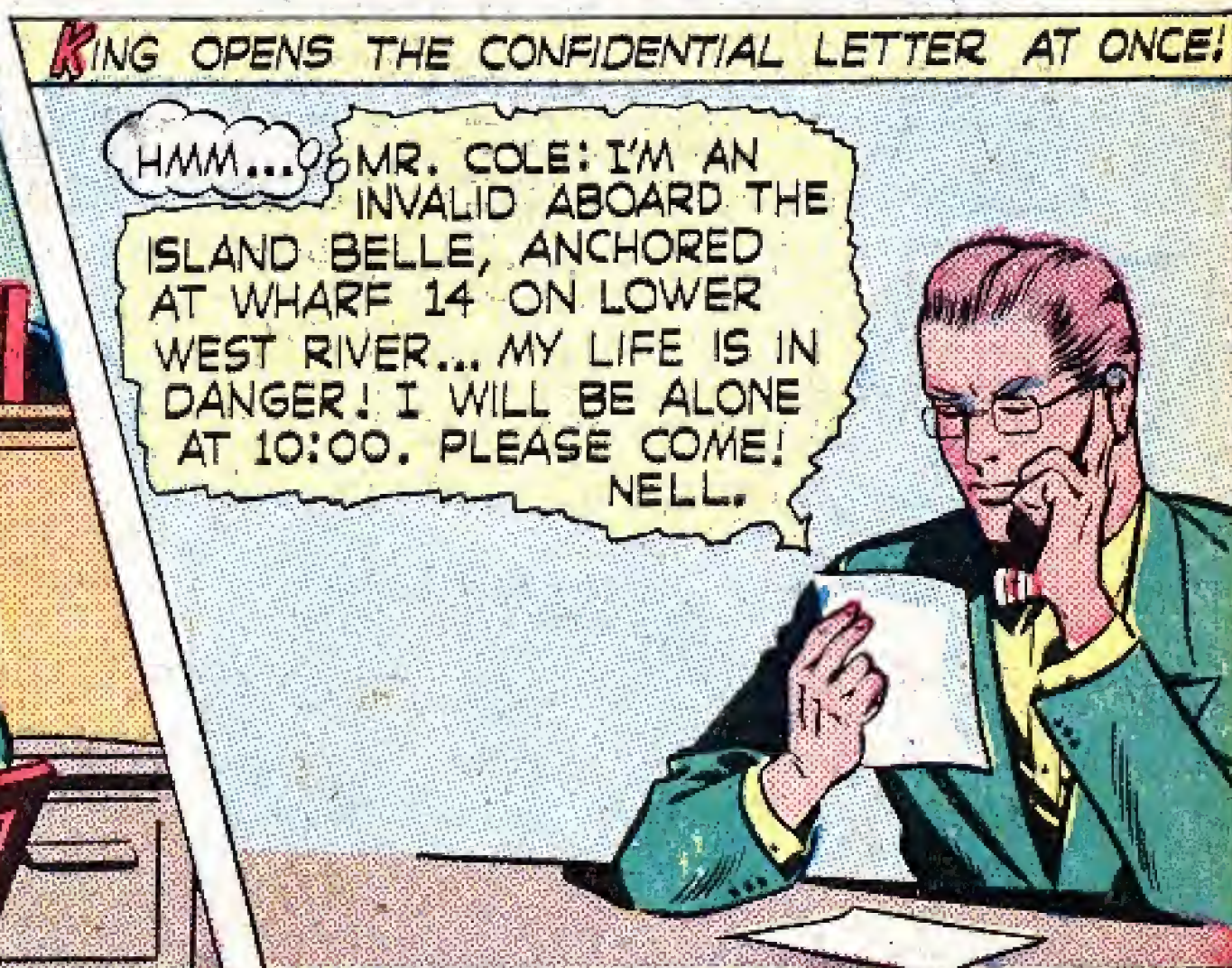
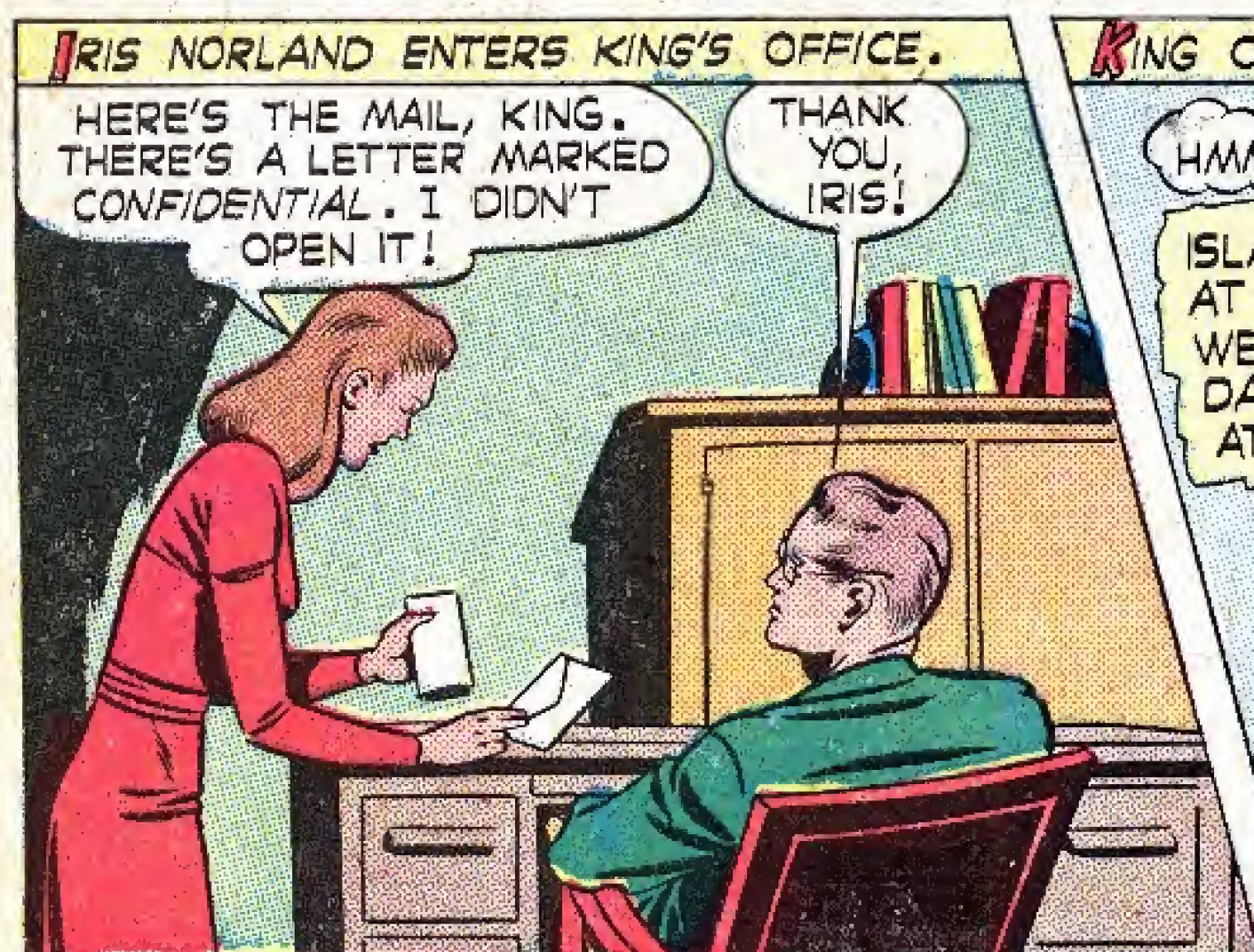
MAIL YOUR ORDERS TO **JOHNSON SMITH & CO., Dept. 909, Detroit 7, Michigan** ADD 10c ON ALL ORDERS UNDER \$1.00

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YOUNG King Cole



DETECTIVE AGENCY
MASTER MIND



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THEY ARE TOP QUALITY COMICS

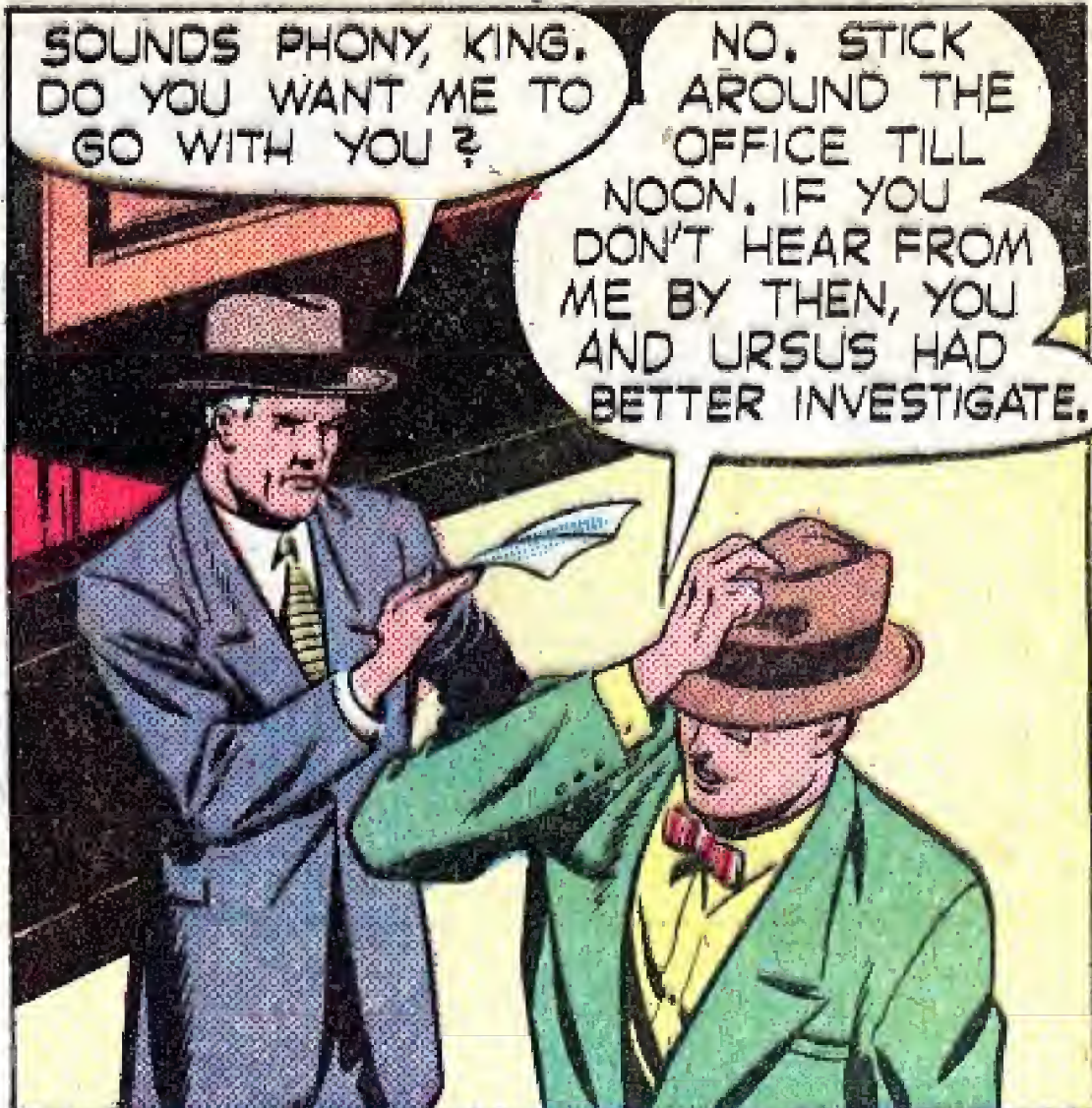
WHIP STEELE ENTERS.

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS LETTER, WHIP?



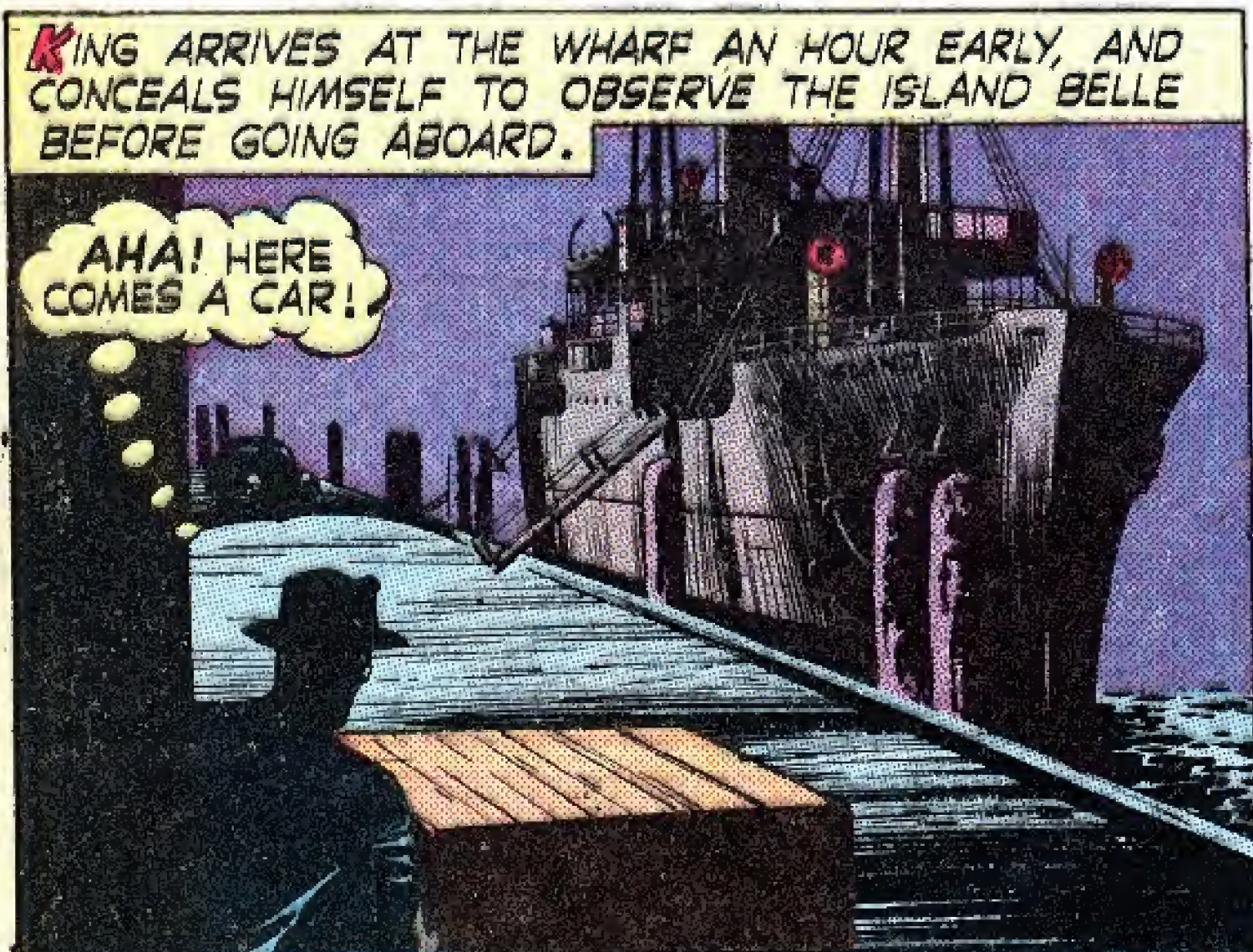
SOUNDS PHONY, KING. DO YOU WANT ME TO GO WITH YOU?

NO. STICK AROUND THE OFFICE TILL NOON. IF YOU DON'T HEAR FROM ME BY THEN, YOU AND URSUS HAD BETTER INVESTIGATE.



KING ARRIVES AT THE WHARF AN HOUR EARLY, AND CONCEALS HIMSELF TO OBSERVE THE ISLAND BELLE BEFORE GOING ABOARD.

AHA! HERE COMES A CAR!



LOOKS LIKE A DOCTOR GOING ABOARD..PROBABLY TO SEE MY CLIENT!



LATER, KING SEES...

I THINK IT'S TIME TO END THIS THING, SKIPPER BAILEY!

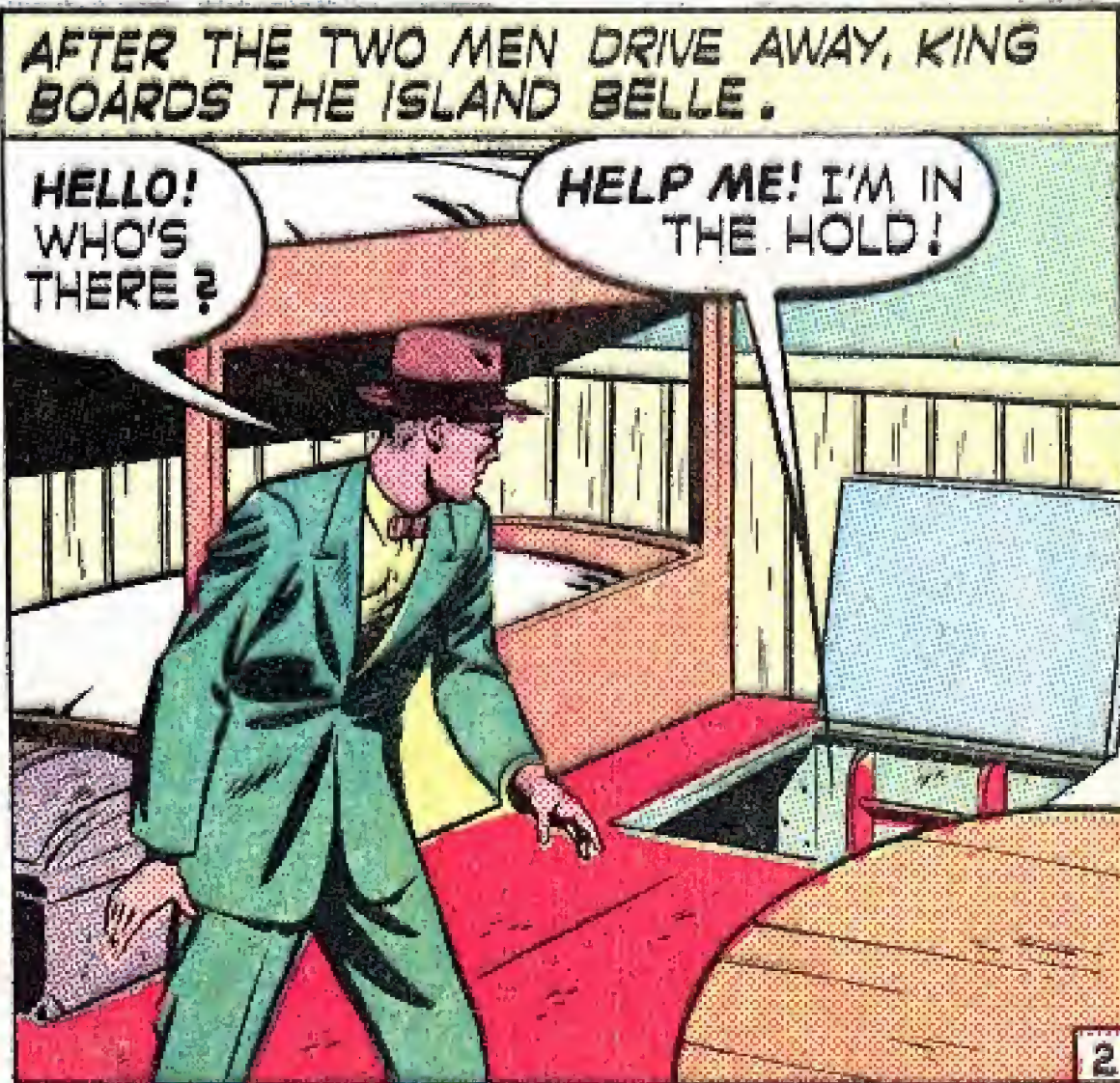
RIGHT, DR. BRADLEY! LET'S GO TO YOUR OFFICE AND MAKE PLANS.

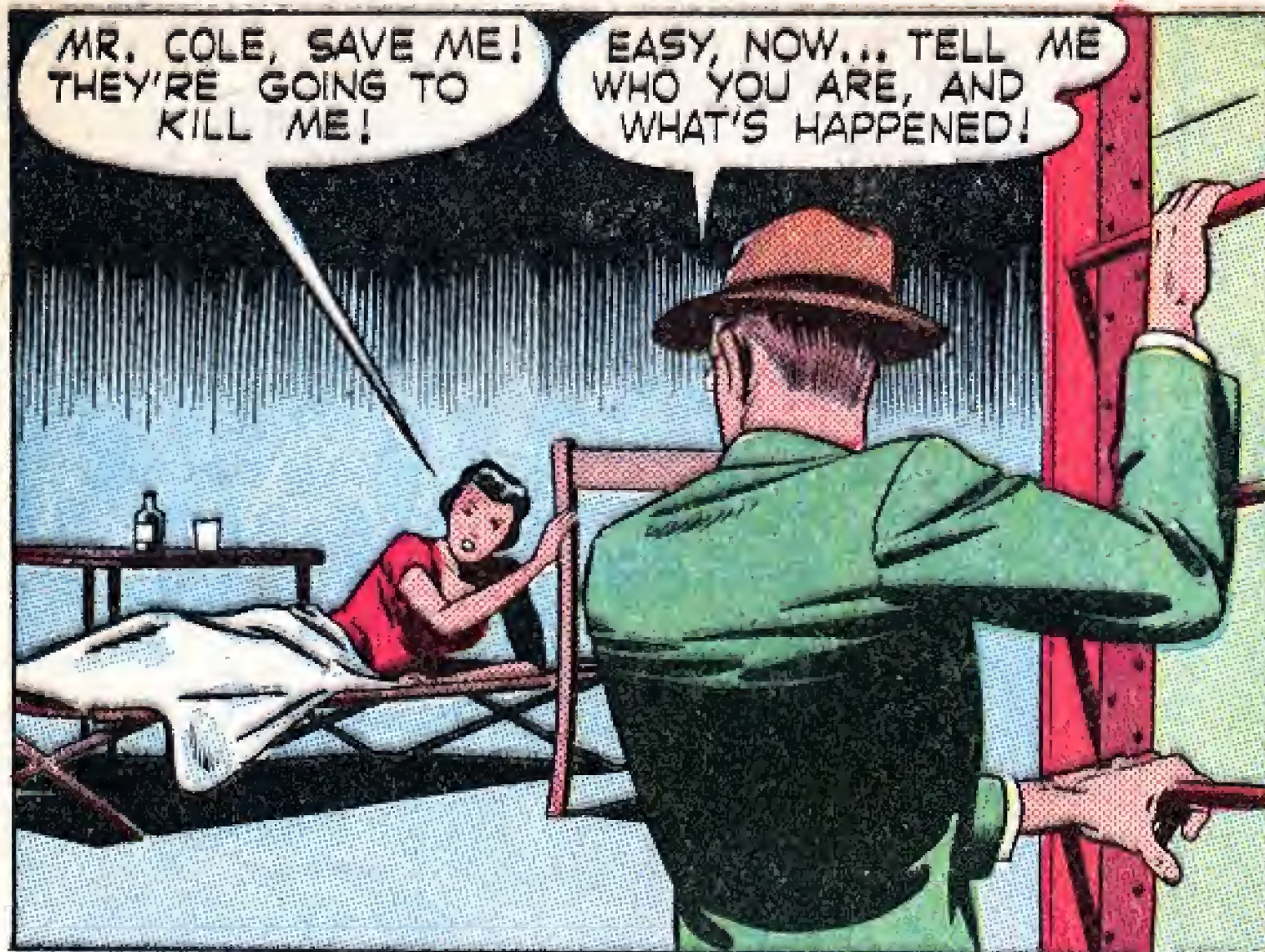


AFTER THE TWO MEN DRIVE AWAY, KING BOARDS THE ISLAND BELLE.

HELLO! WHO'S THERE?

HELP ME! I'M IN THE HOLD!





MR. COLE, SAVE ME! THEY'RE GOING TO KILL ME!

EASY, NOW... TELL ME WHO YOU ARE, AND WHAT'S HAPPENED!



MY NAME IS NELL. I DON'T KNOW MY LAST NAME! MY UNCLE WILLIAM BAILEY TOOK ME AWAY FROM HOME AFTER MY MOTHER DIED. I WAS VERY YOUNG.

IS BAILEY THE SKIPPER OF THIS STEAMER?

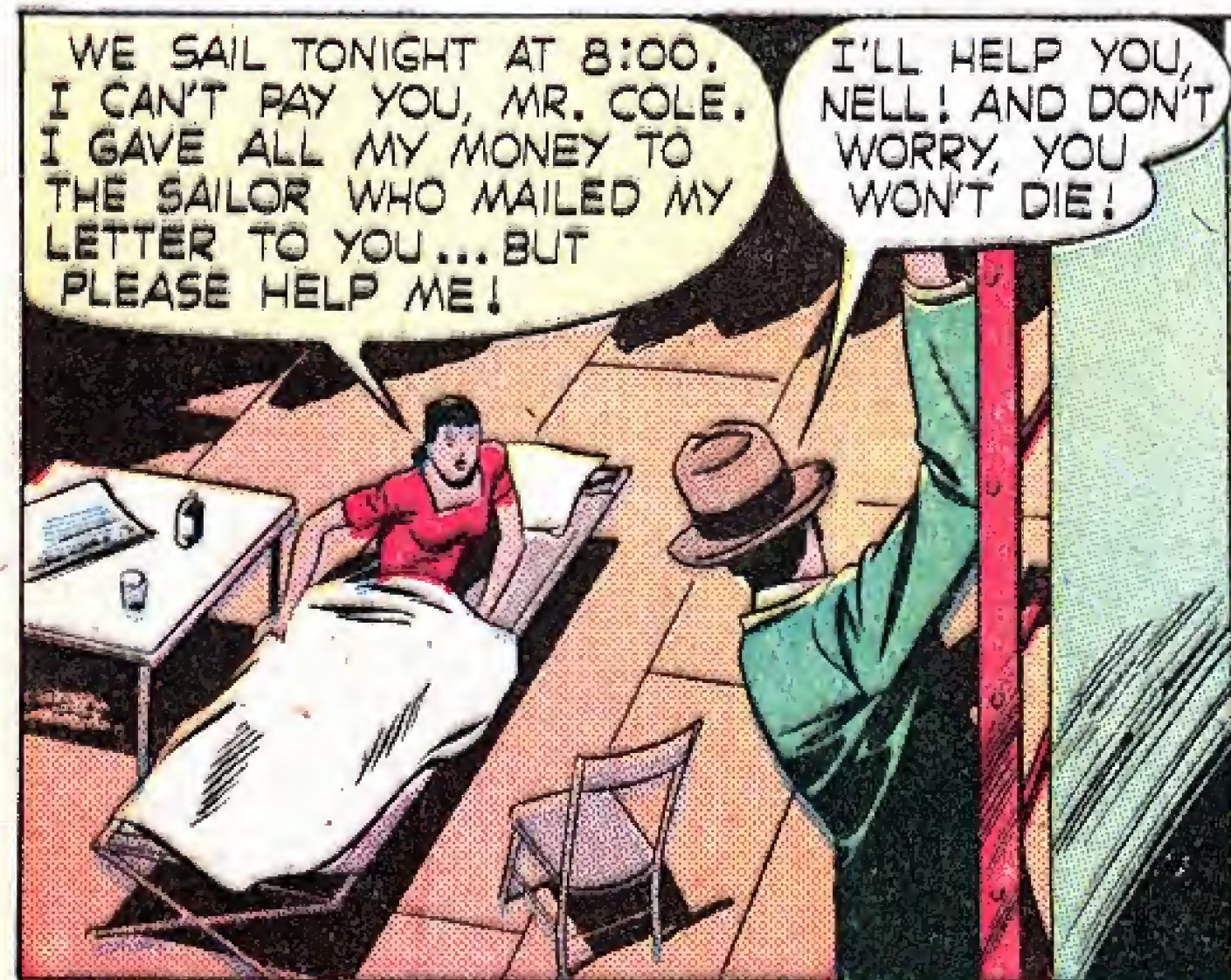


YES... HE'S NEVER ALLOWED ME TO LEAVE THE BOAT ALONE! WE DOCKED HERE A MONTH AGO FOR REPAIRS. I BECAME ILL, AND WAS CONFINED TO THIS HOLD!



EVERY DAY DR. BRADLEY GIVES ME A HYPODERMIC SHOT FROM THE SOLUTION IN THAT BOTTLE... HE SAYS IT'LL MAKE ME WELL, BUT I'M DYING!

I'LL TAKE THIS WITH ME!



WE SAIL TONIGHT AT 8:00. I CAN'T PAY YOU, MR. COLE. I GAVE ALL MY MONEY TO THE SAILOR WHO MAILED MY LETTER TO YOU... BUT PLEASE HELP ME!

I'LL HELP YOU, NELL! AND DON'T WORRY, YOU WON'T DIE!



AS KING LEAVES THE STEAMER...

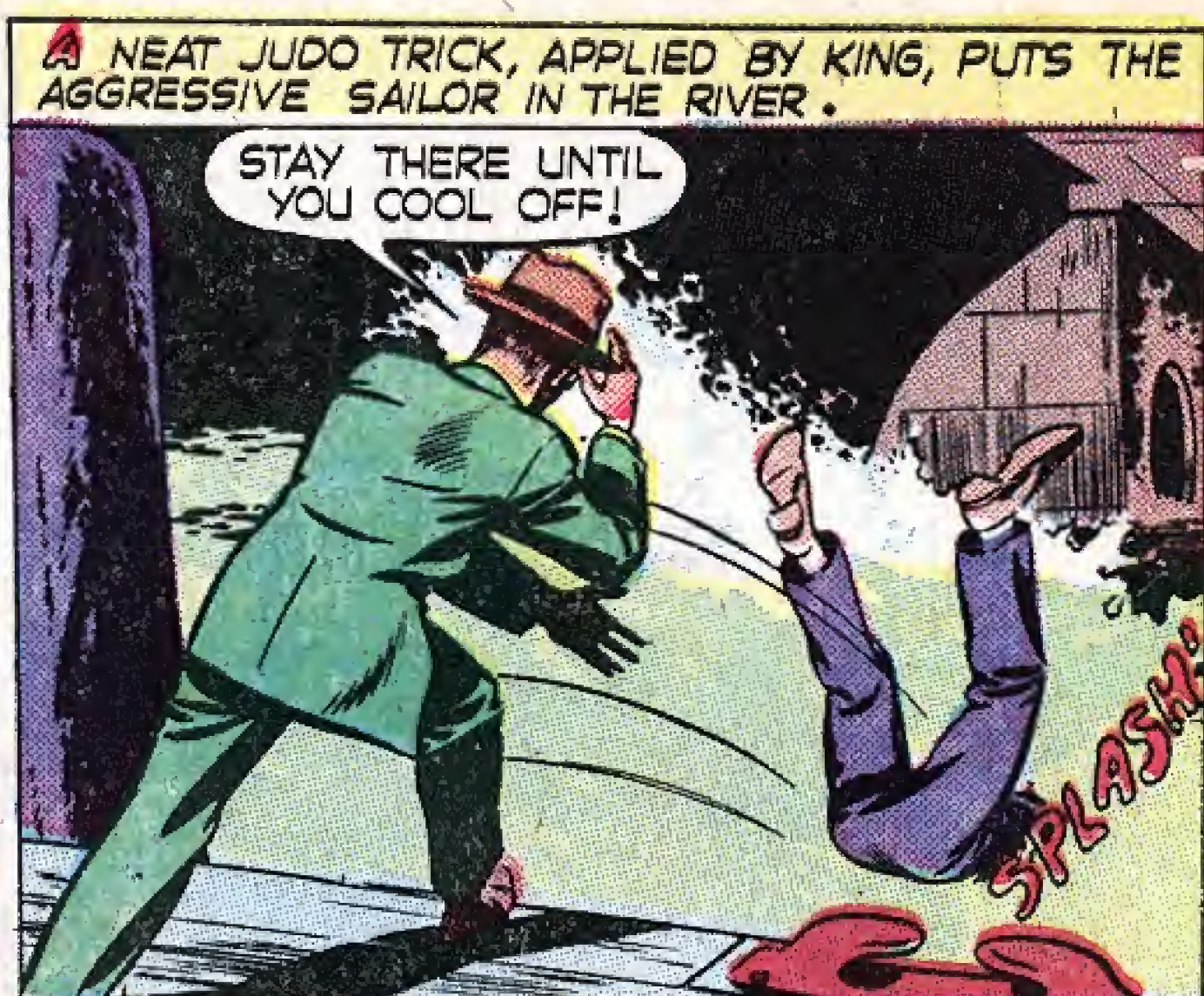
HEY, YOU! WHAT WERE YOU DOING ABOARD?

LOOKING FOR THE SKIPPER!



YOU LYING
SNOOPER!
WHAT DO YOU
WANT?

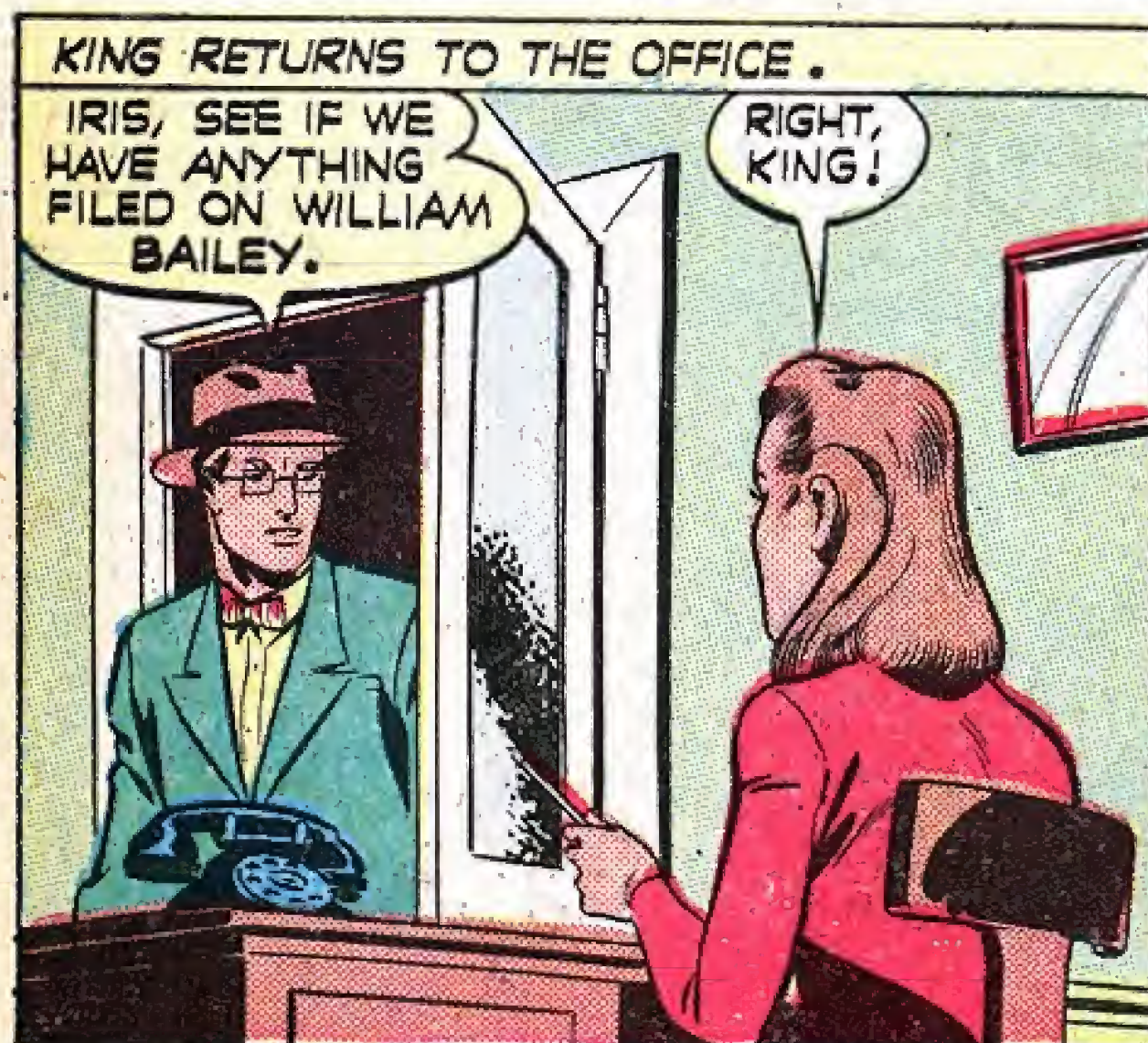
YOU, AT THE
MOMENT!



A NEAT JUDO TRICK, APPLIED BY KING, PUTS THE
AGGRESSIVE SAILOR IN THE RIVER.

STAY THERE UNTIL
YOU COOL OFF!

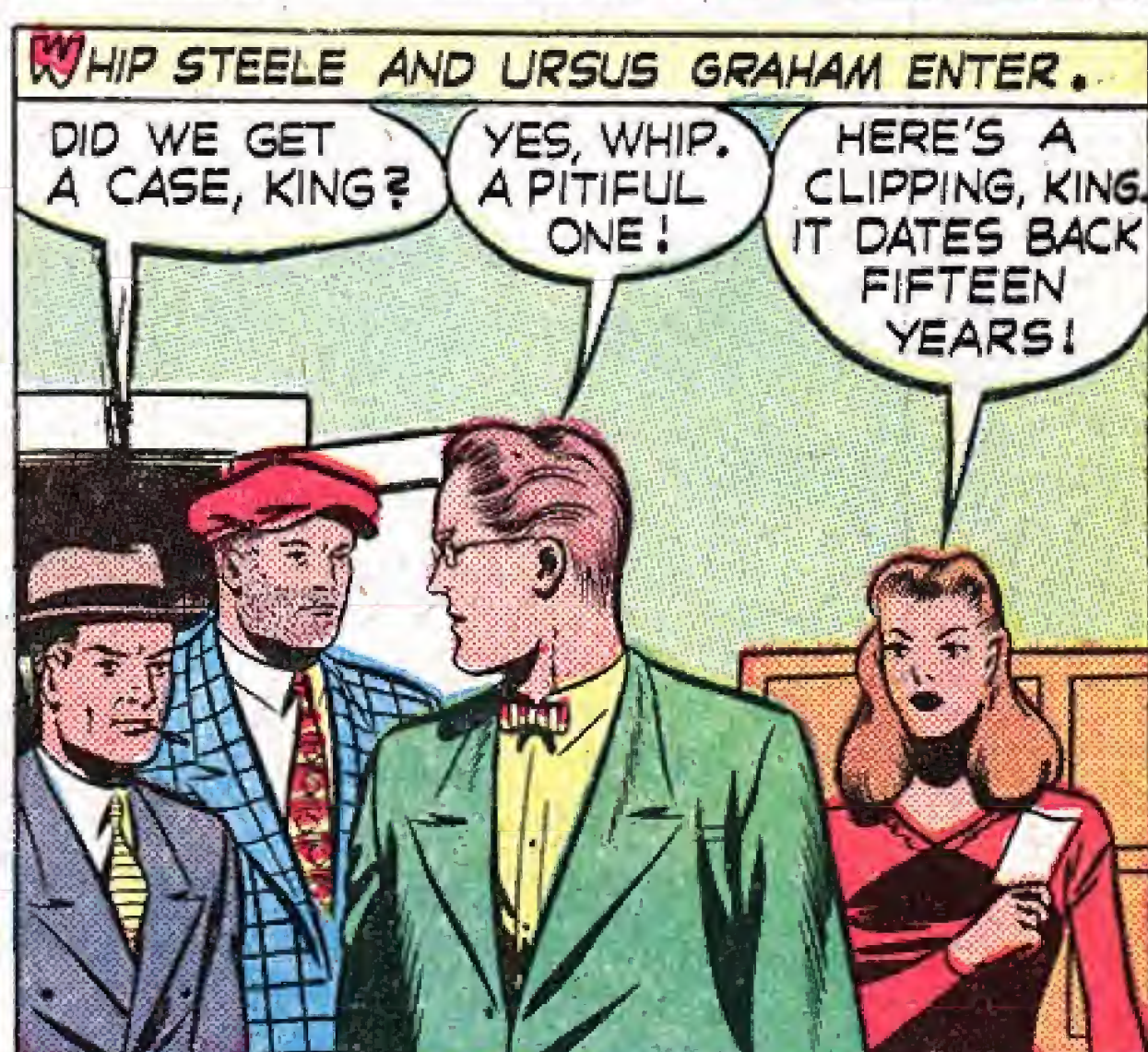
SPLASH!



KING RETURNS TO THE OFFICE.

IRIS, SEE IF WE
HAVE ANYTHING
FILED ON WILLIAM
BAILEY.

RIGHT,
KING!

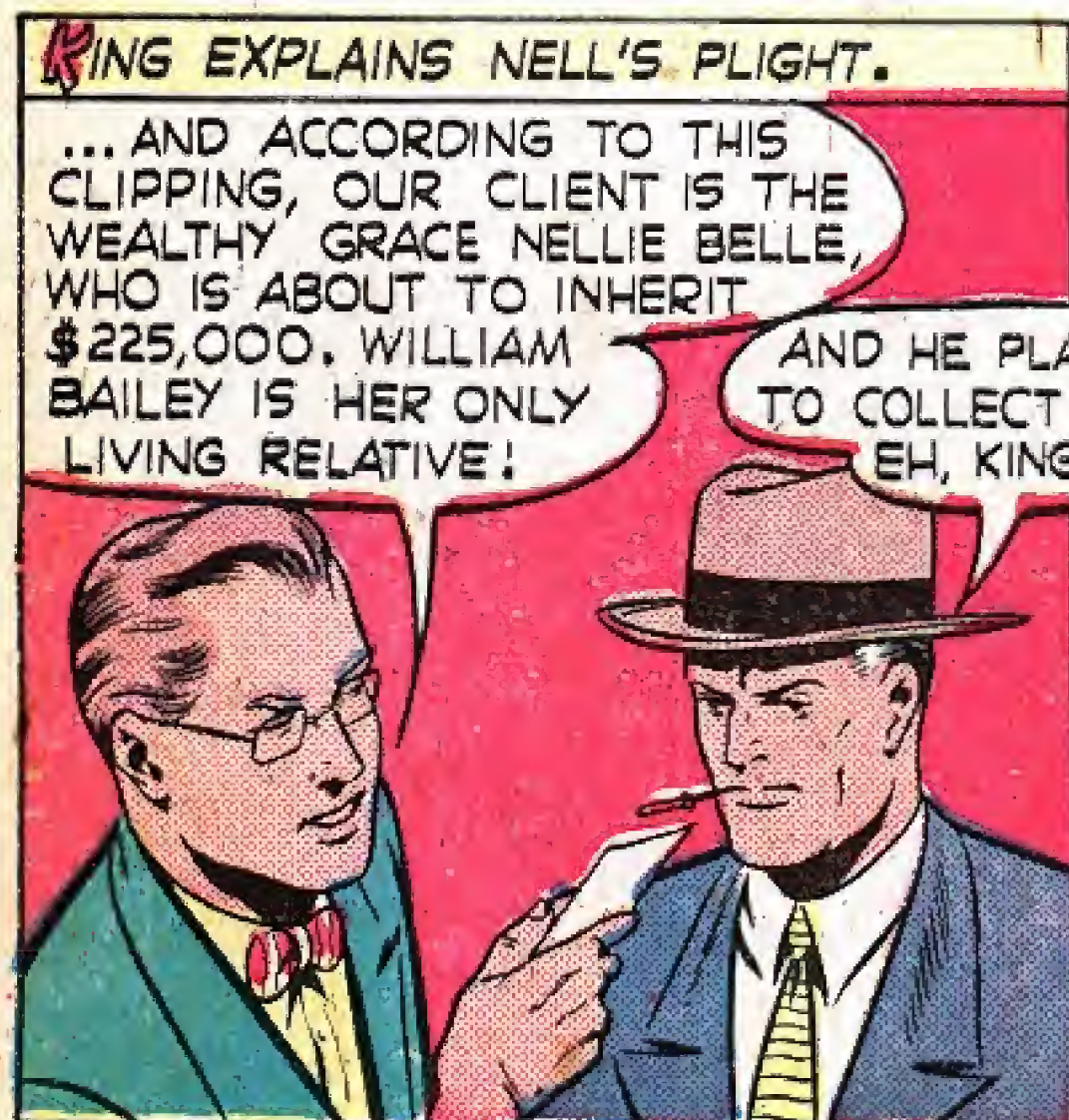


WHIP STEELE AND URSUS GRAHAM ENTER.

DID WE GET
A CASE, KING?

YES, WHIP.
A PITIFUL
ONE!

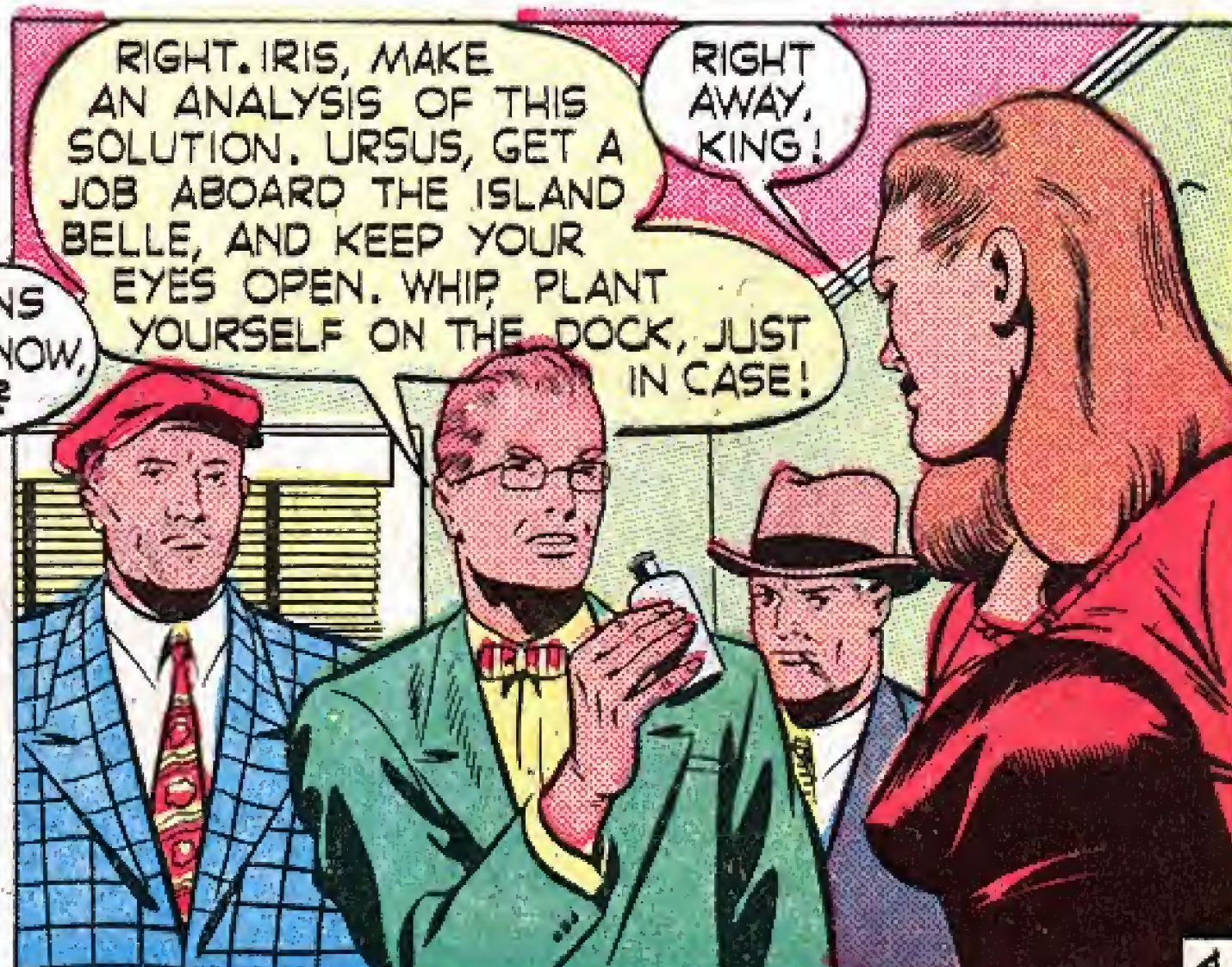
HERE'S A
CLIPPING, KING.
IT DATES BACK
FIFTEEN
YEARS!



KING EXPLAINS NELL'S PLIGHT.

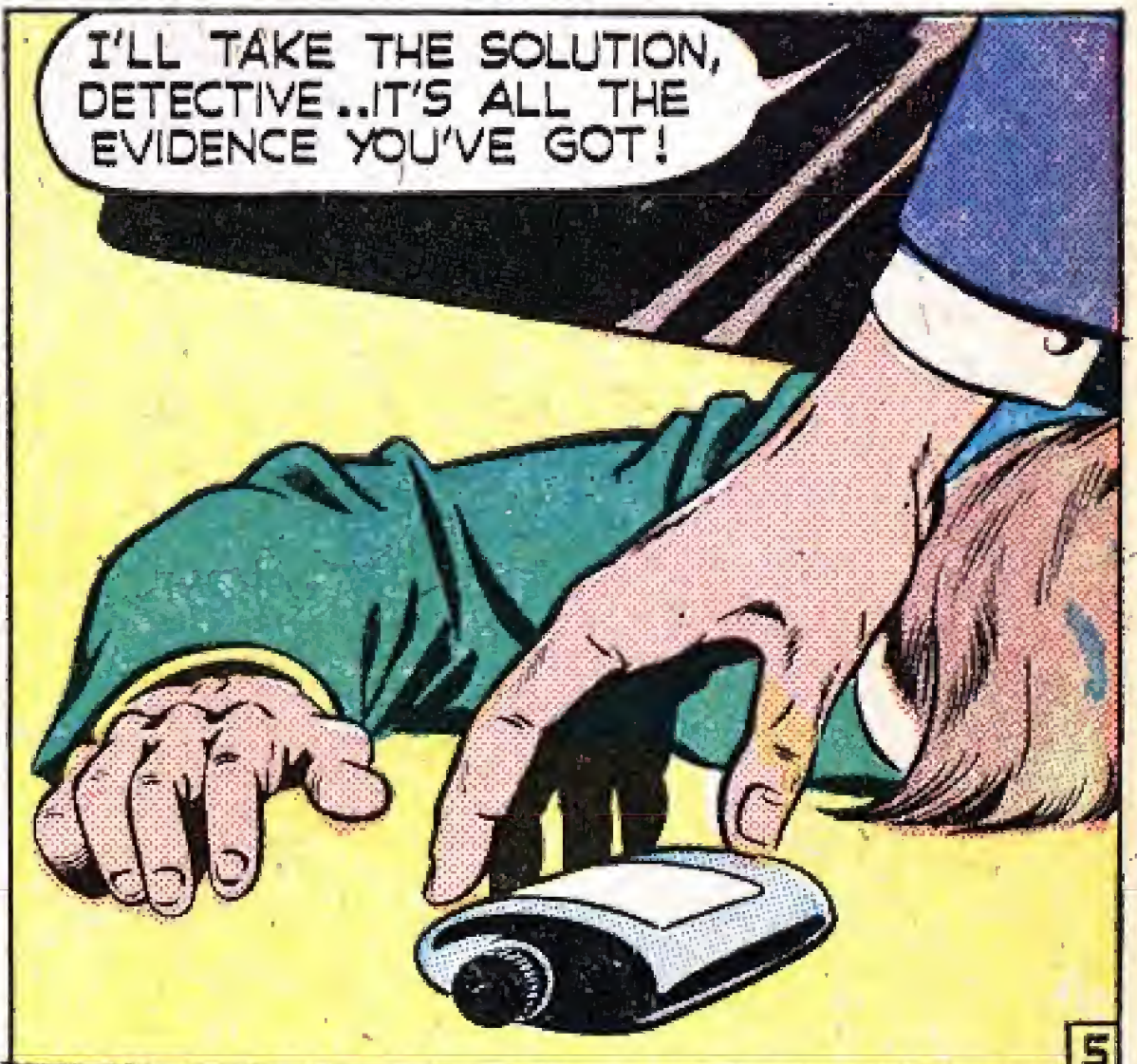
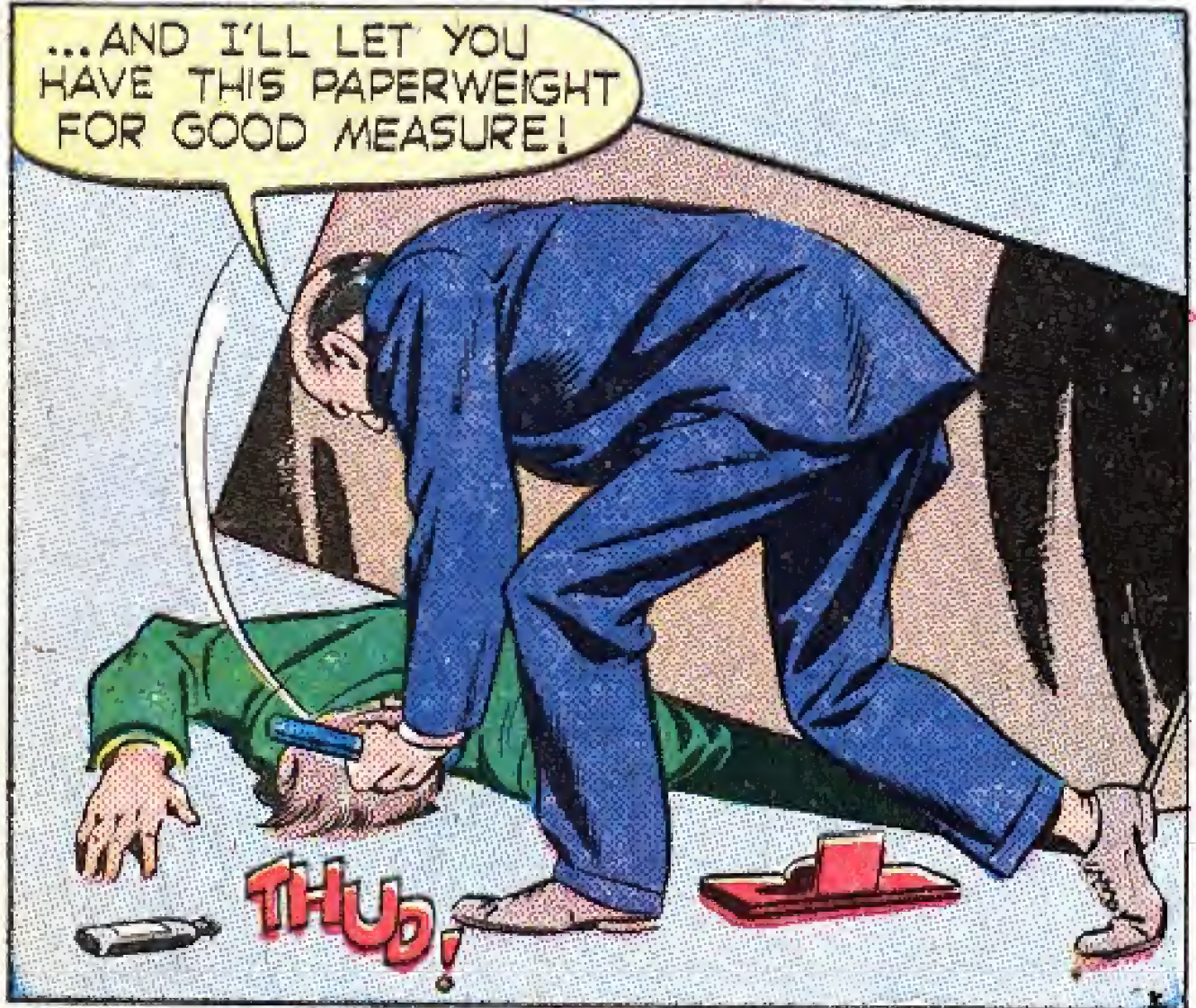
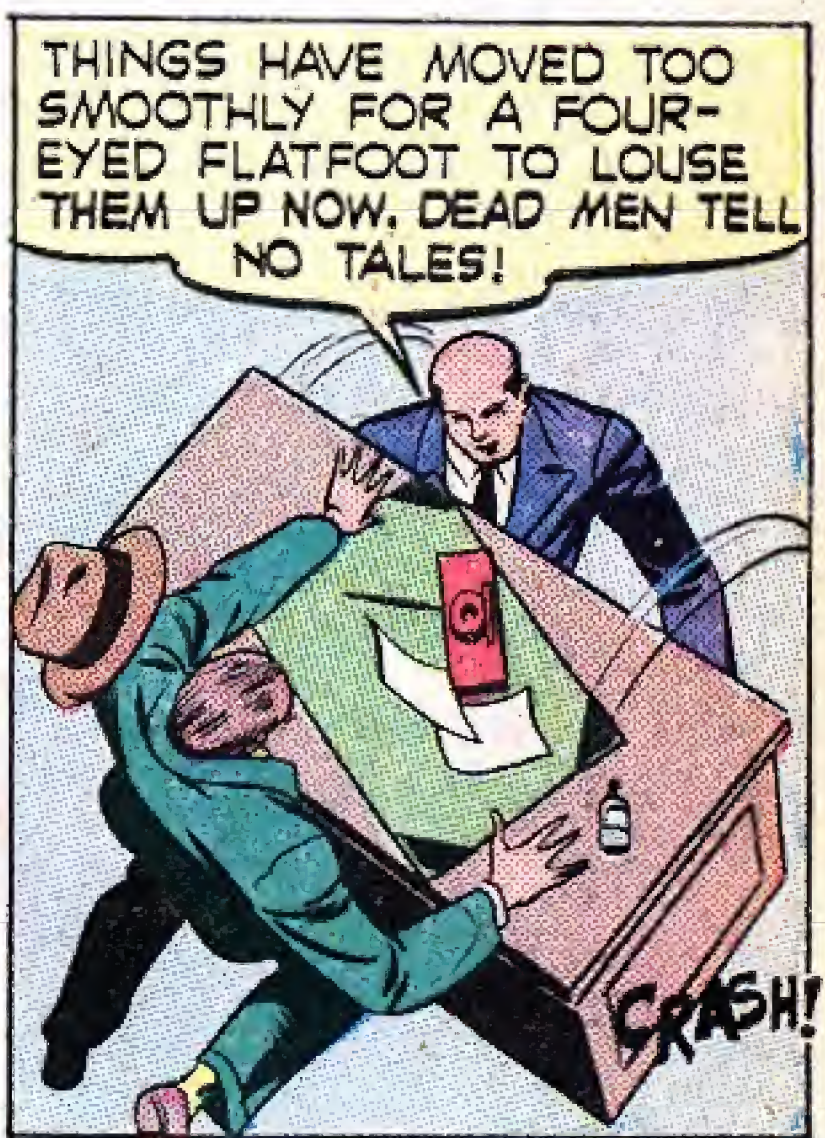
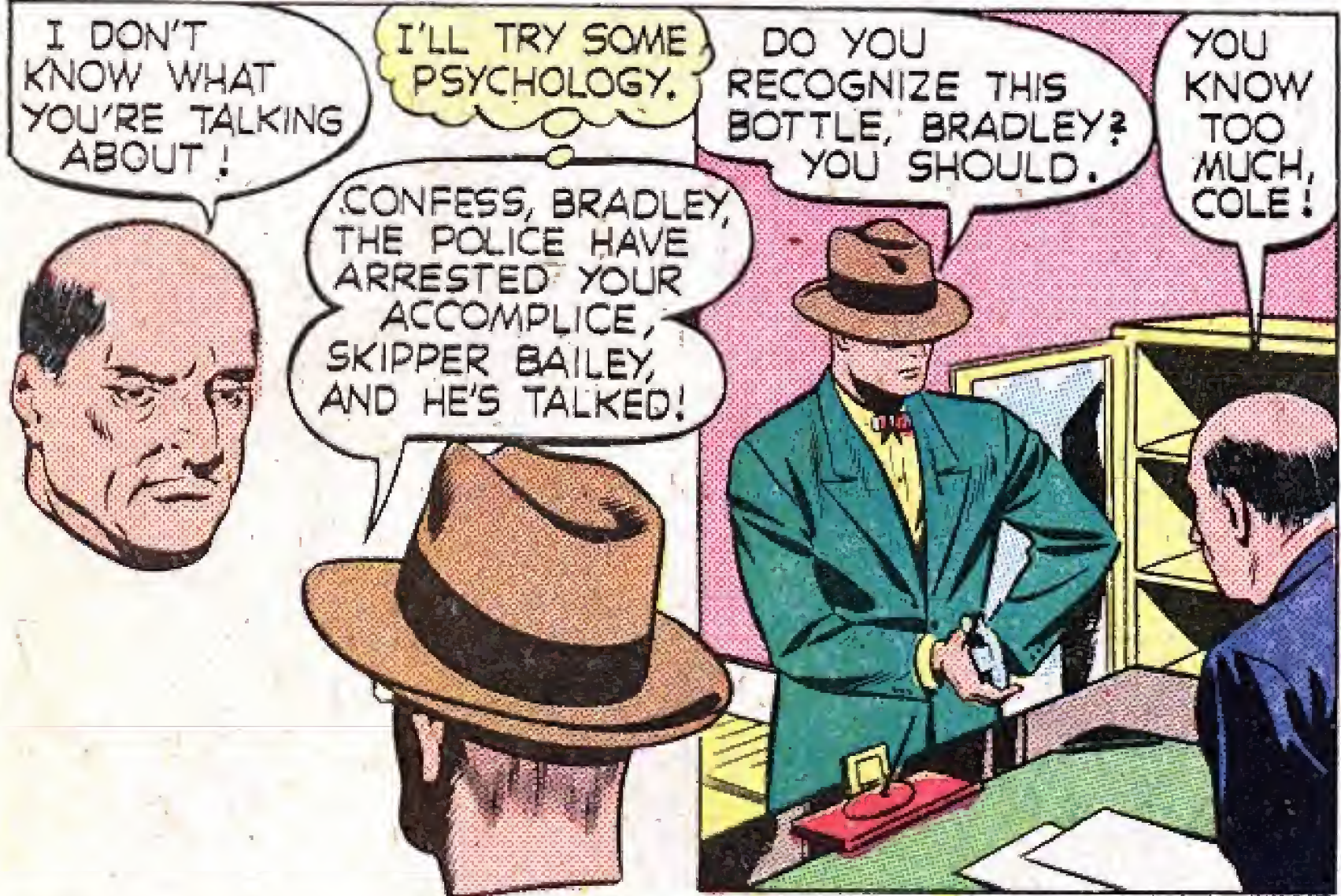
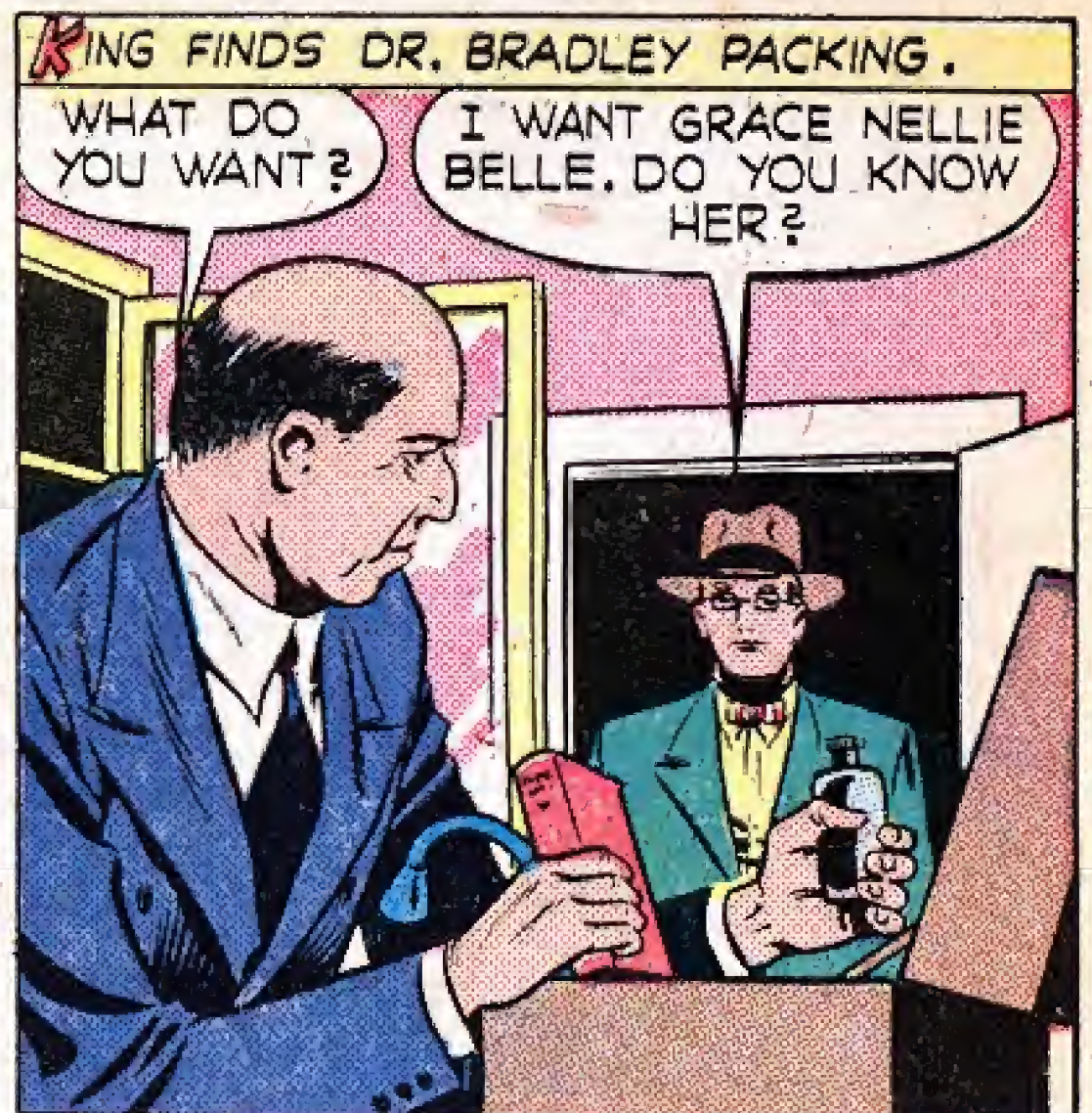
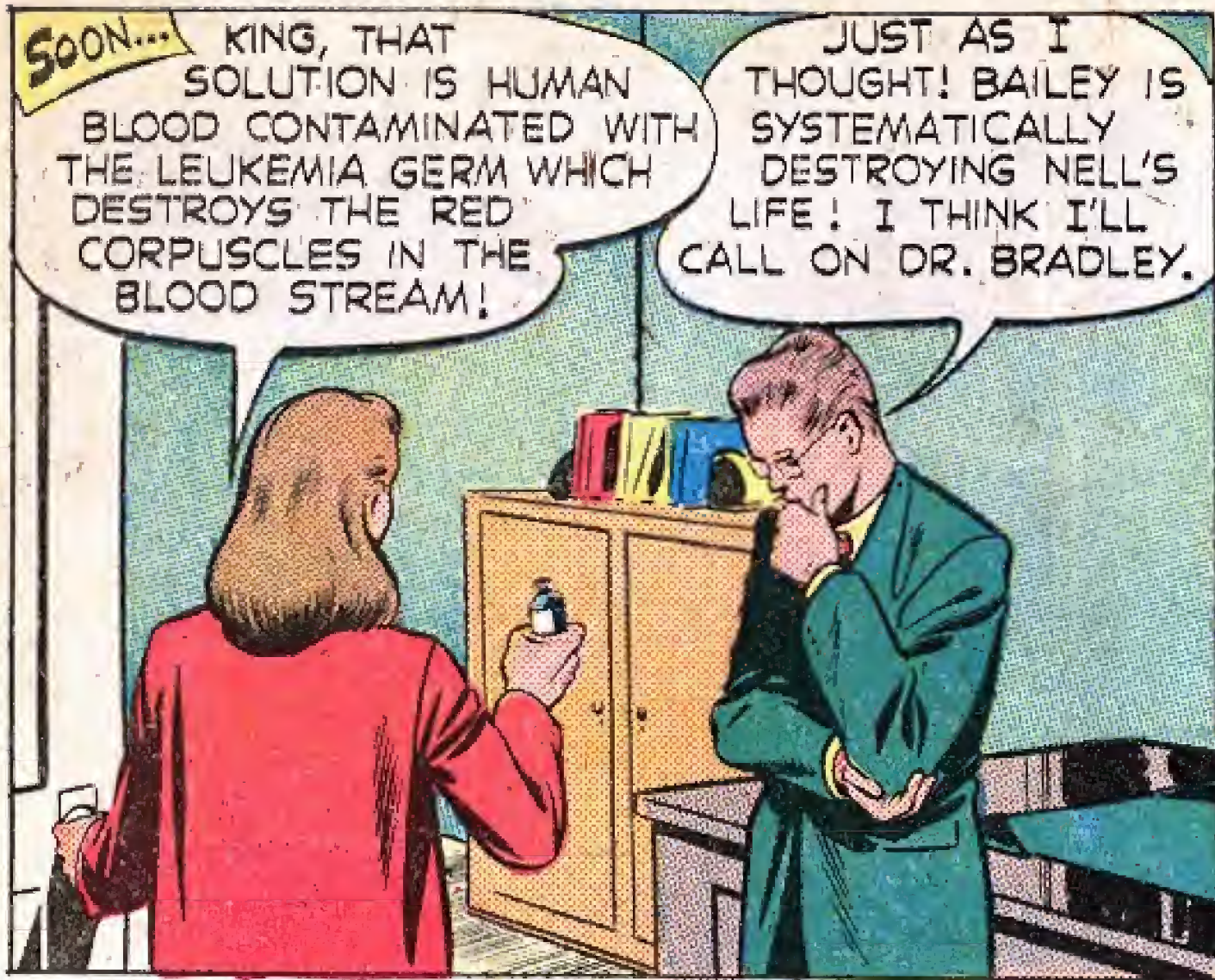
...AND ACCORDING TO THIS
CLIPPING, OUR CLIENT IS THE
WEALTHY GRACE NELLIE BELLE,
WHO IS ABOUT TO INHERIT
\$225,000. WILLIAM
BAILEY IS HER ONLY
LIVING RELATIVE!

AND HE PLANS
TO COLLECT NOW,
EH, KING?



RIGHT. IRIS, MAKE
AN ANALYSIS OF THIS
SOLUTION. URSUS, GET A
JOB ABOARD THE ISLAND
BELLE, AND KEEP YOUR
EYES OPEN. WHIP, PLANT
YOURSELF ON THE DOCK, JUST
IN CASE!

RIGHT
AWAY,
KING!



MEANWHILE, URSUS GRAHAM APPLIES FOR A JOB ABOARD THE ISLAND BELLE.

I'M SKIPPER BAILEY. DO YOU WANT TO SEE ME?

YES, SIR. ARE YOU TAKING ON ANY HANDS?



WHAT DO YOU DO?

FIREMAN, FIRST CLASS.



I CAN USE YOU. WE SAIL TONIGHT. HAVE FULL STEAM UP AT 8:00. THERE'S ONLY ONE RULE ON THIS TUB: KEEP YOUR EYES, EARS, AND MOUTH SHUT!



WHIP STEELE HIDES HIMSELF ON THE DOCK TO WATCH THE ISLAND BELLE.

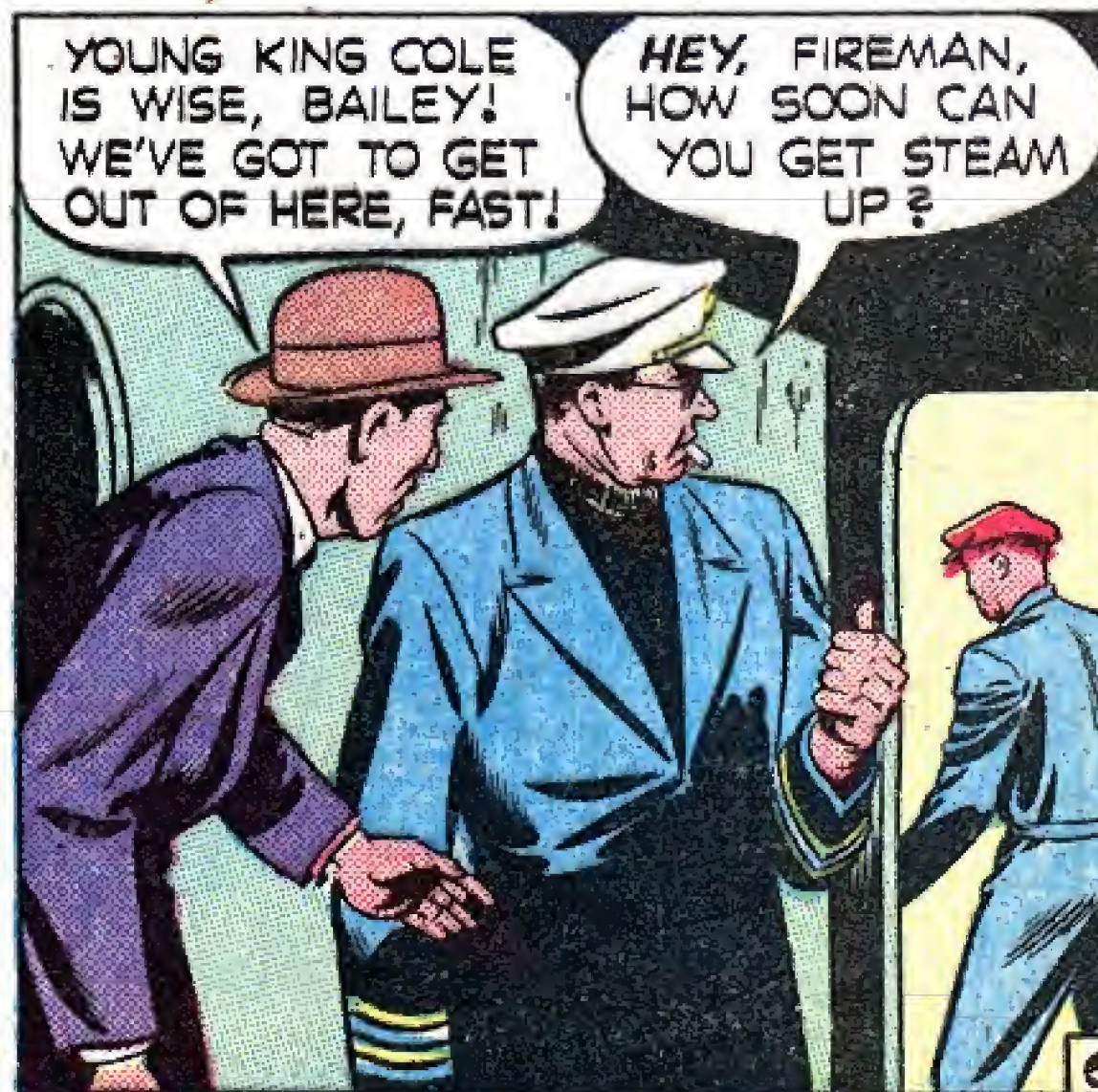


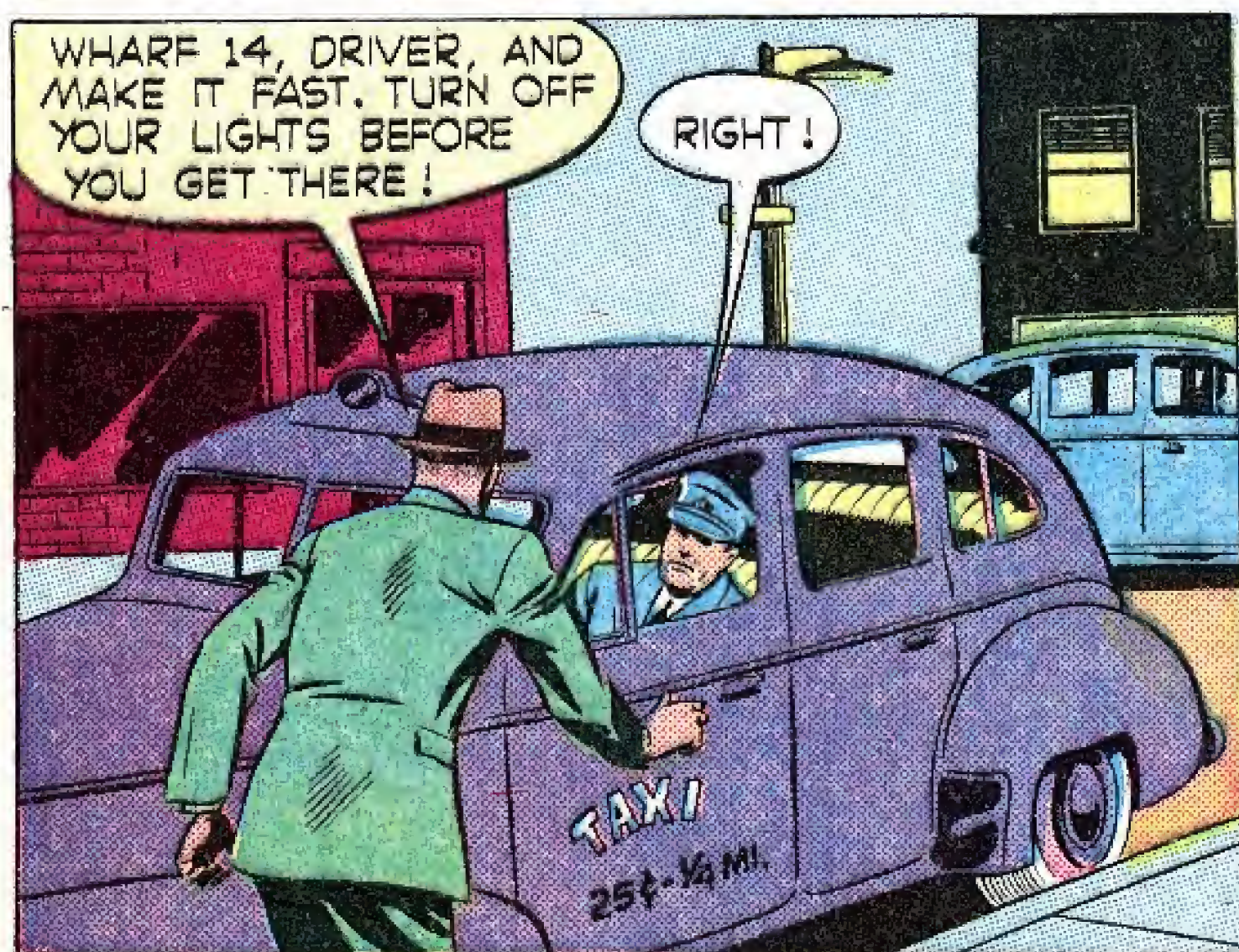
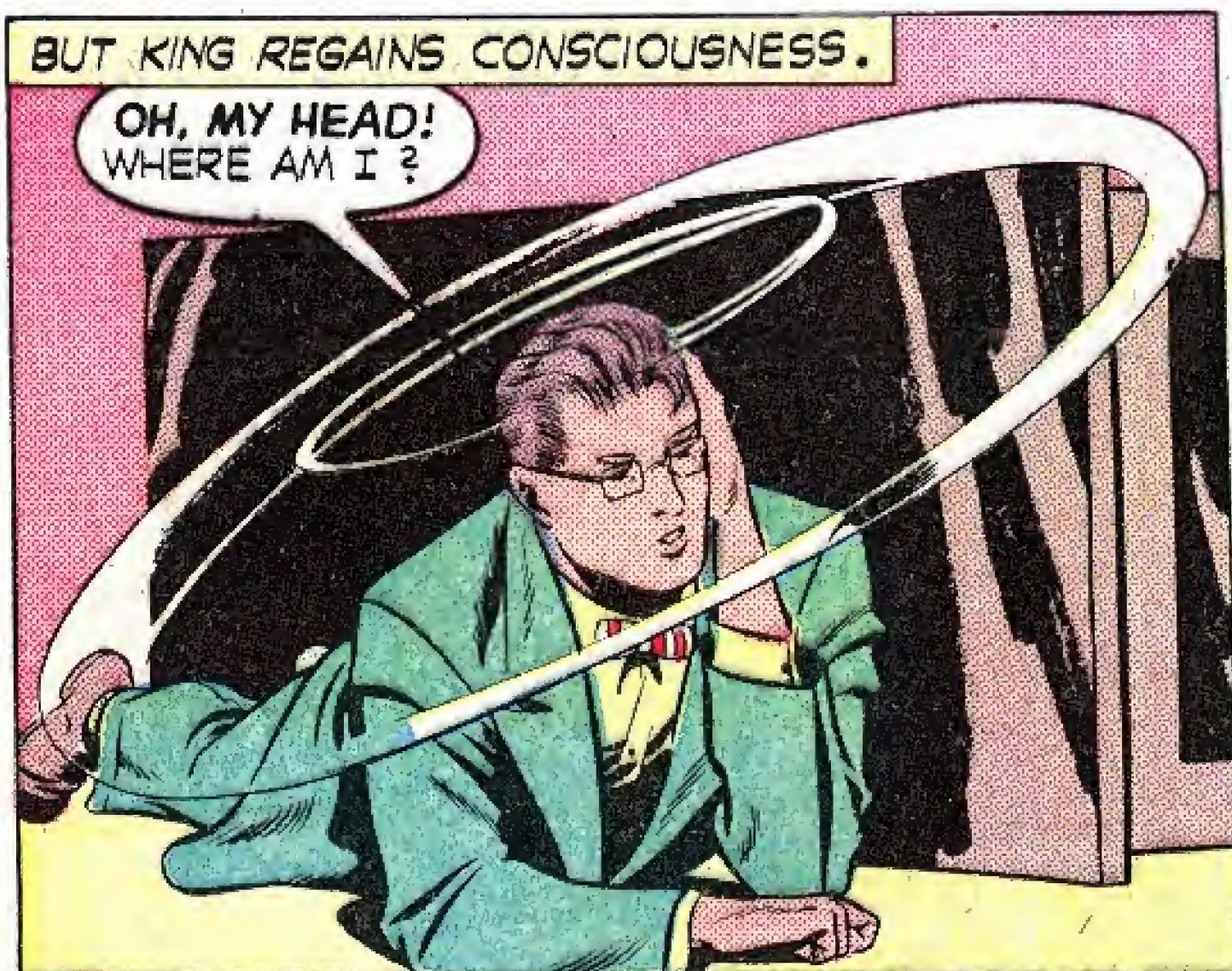
THAT MUST BE DR. BRADLEY GOING ABOARD!



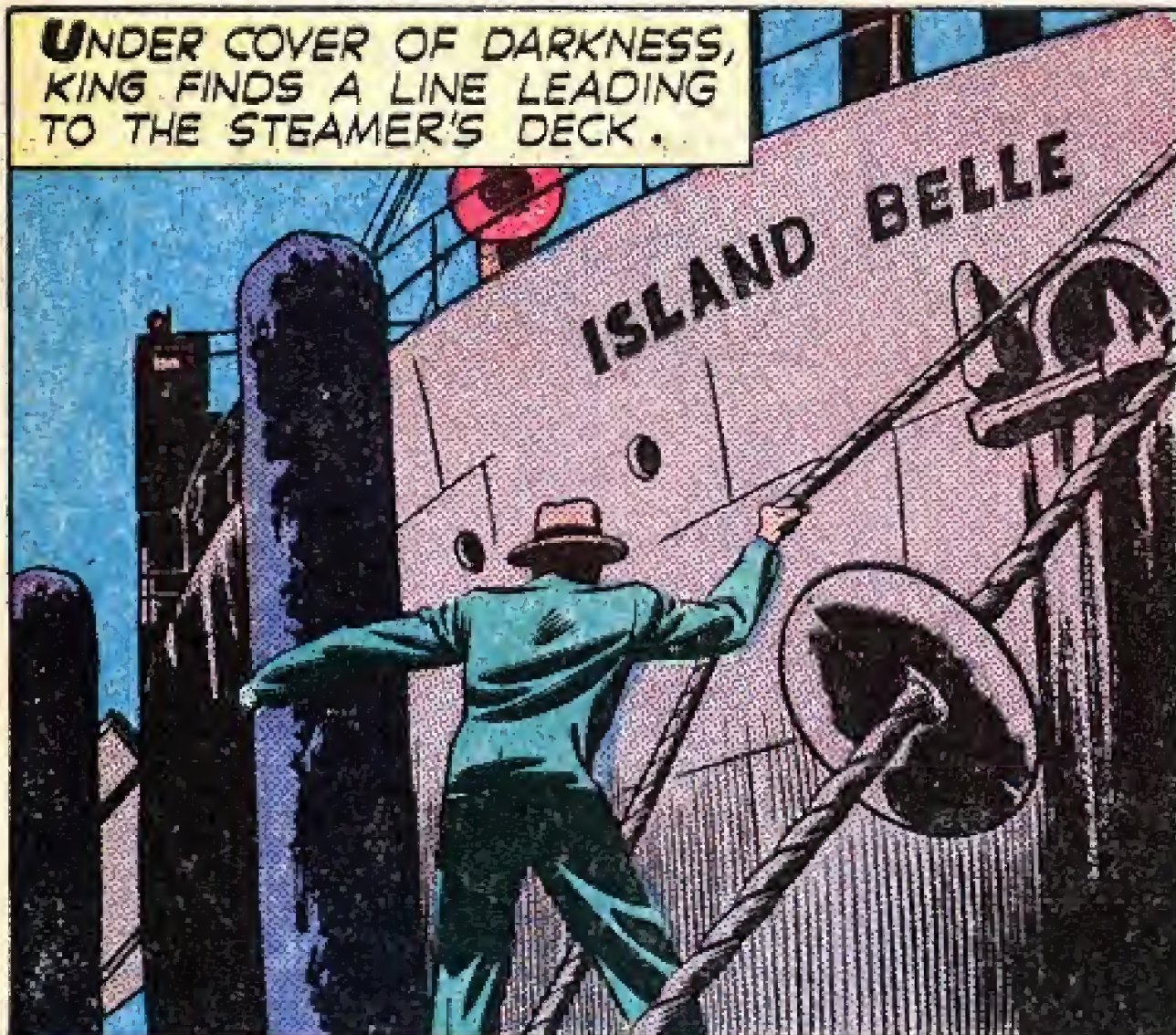
YOUNG KING COLE IS WISE, BAILEY! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE, FAST!

HEY, FIREMAN, HOW SOON CAN YOU GET STEAM UP?





UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS,
KING FINDS A LINE LEADING
TO THE STEAMER'S DECK.



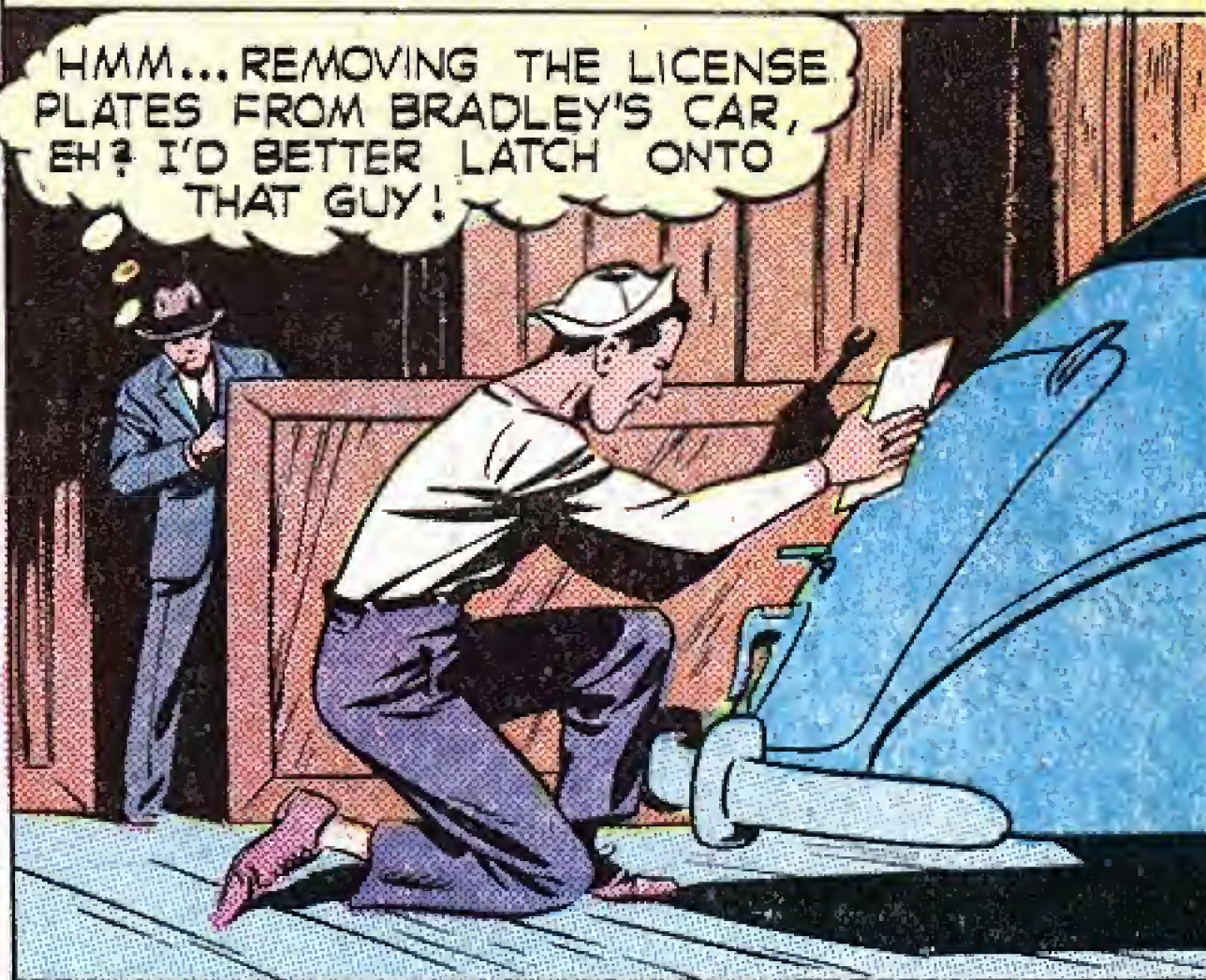
WE'RE LEAVING IN HALF
AN HOUR, JOE, SO GET
GOING WITH MY CAR!
WE'LL PICK YOU UP AT
THE COVE IN AN HOUR!

HMM. HOPE
WHIP TRAILS
HIM!

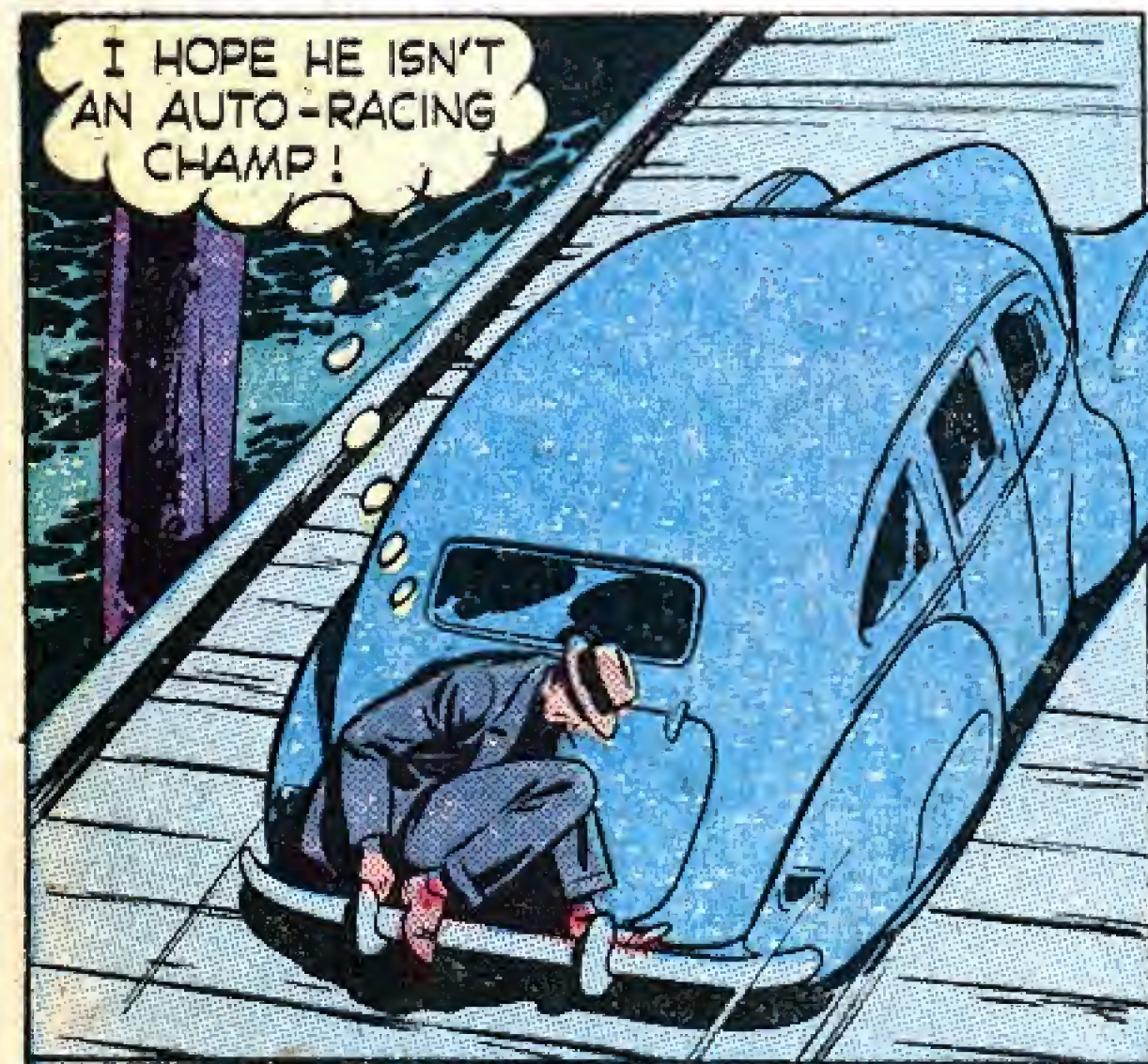


WHIP STEELE WATCHES JOE GO INTO ACTION.

HMM...REMOVING THE LICENSE
PLATES FROM BRADLEY'S CAR,
EH? I'D BETTER LATCH ONTO
THAT GUY!

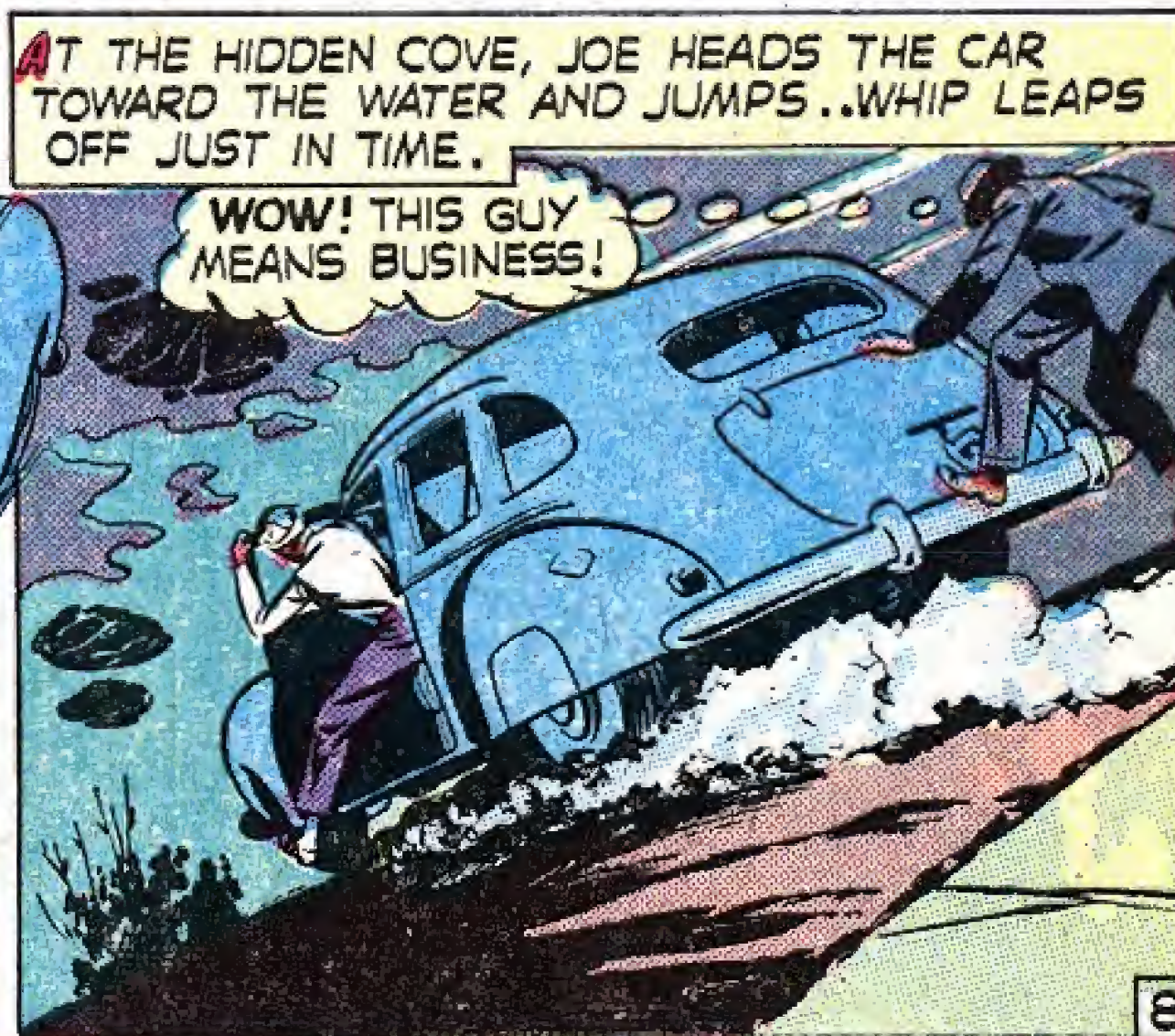


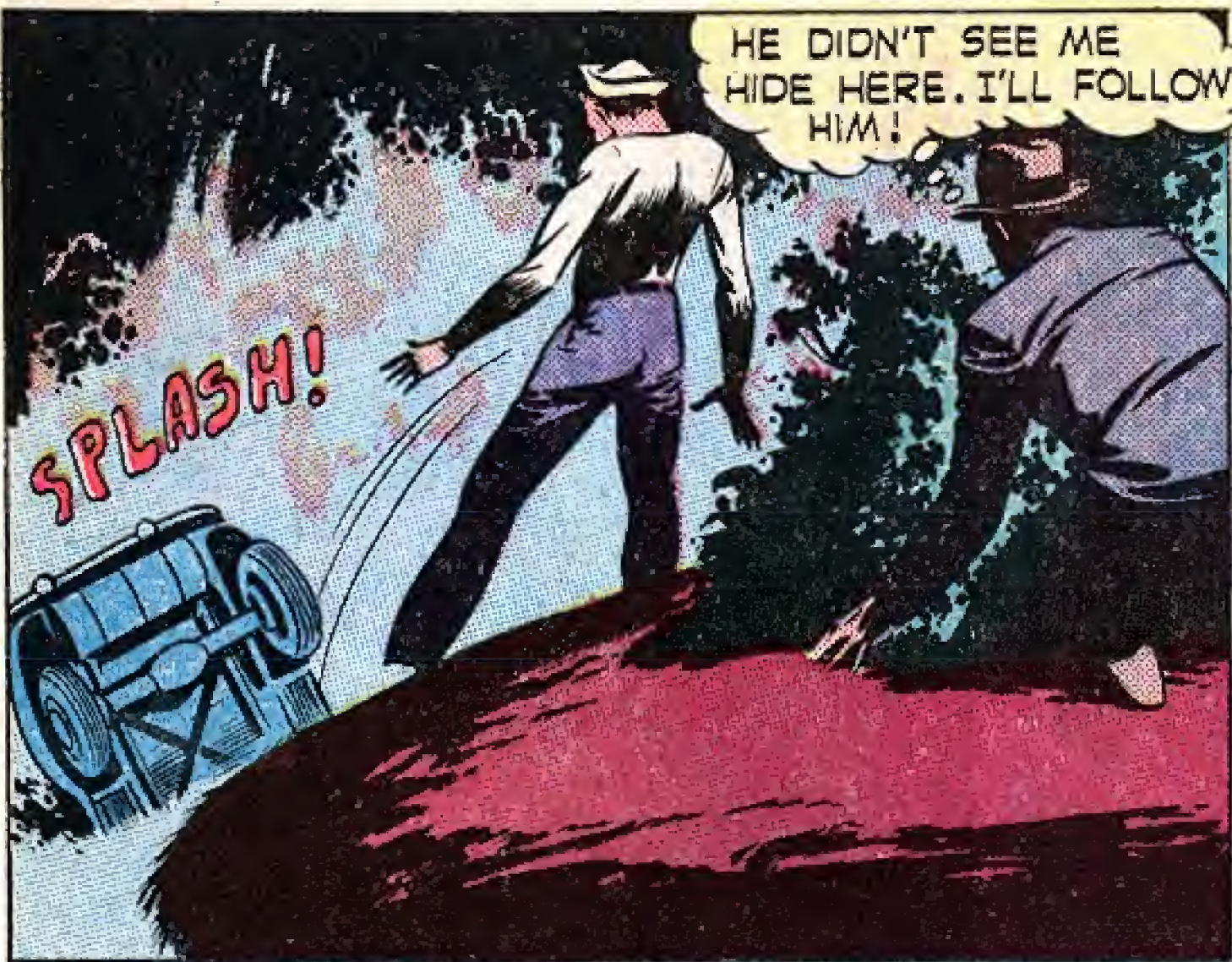
I HOPE HE ISN'T
AN AUTO-RACING
CHAMP!



AT THE HIDDEN COVE, JOE HEADS THE CAR
TOWARD THE WATER AND JUMPS..WHIP LEAPS
OFF JUST IN TIME.

WOW! THIS GUY
MEANS BUSINESS!





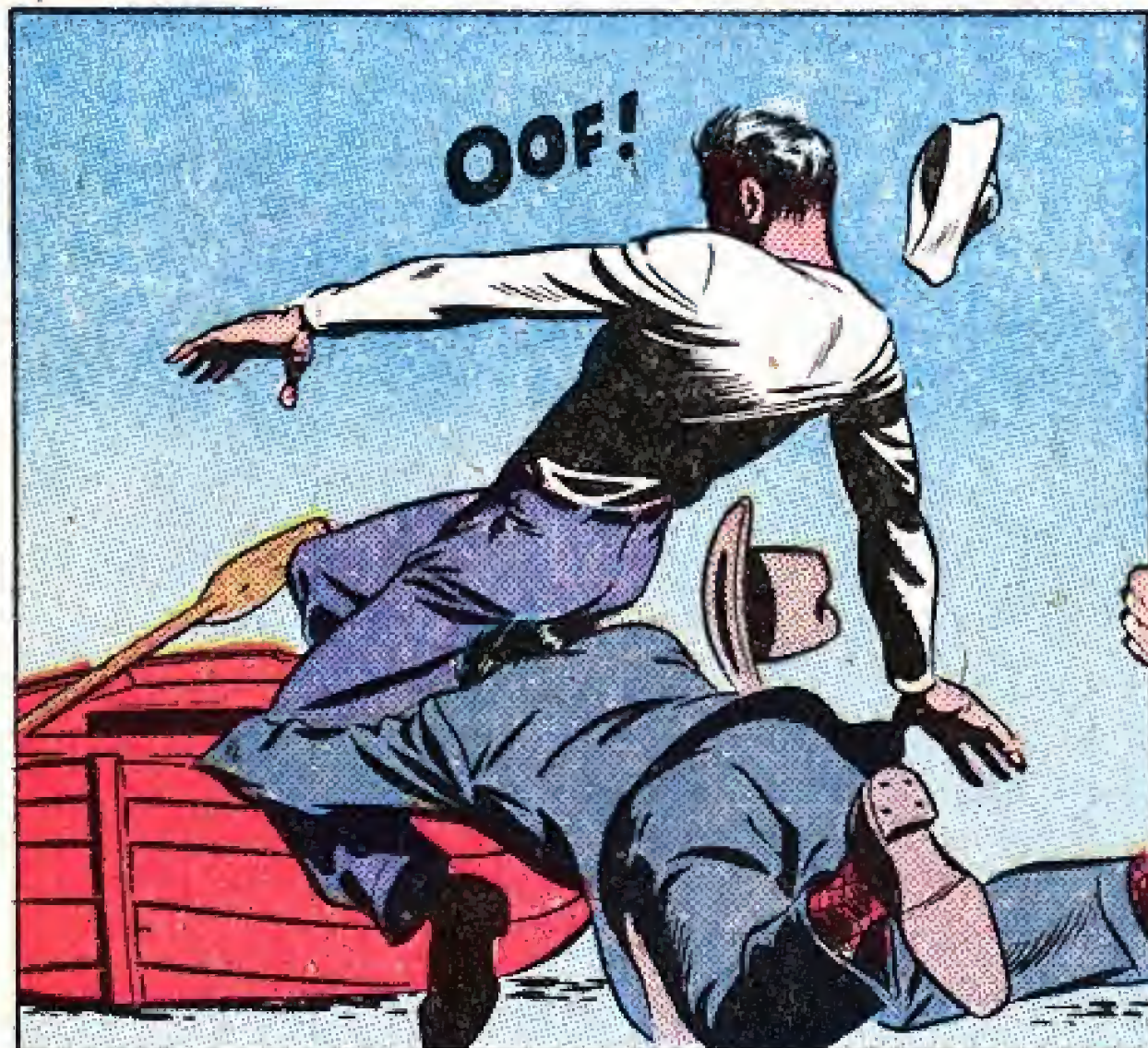
HE DIDN'T SEE ME
HIDE HERE. I'LL FOLLOW
HIM!

SPLASH!



SOON...

OH-OH! I'D BETTER STOP HIM
BEFORE HE SHOVS OFF IN
THAT ROWBOAT.

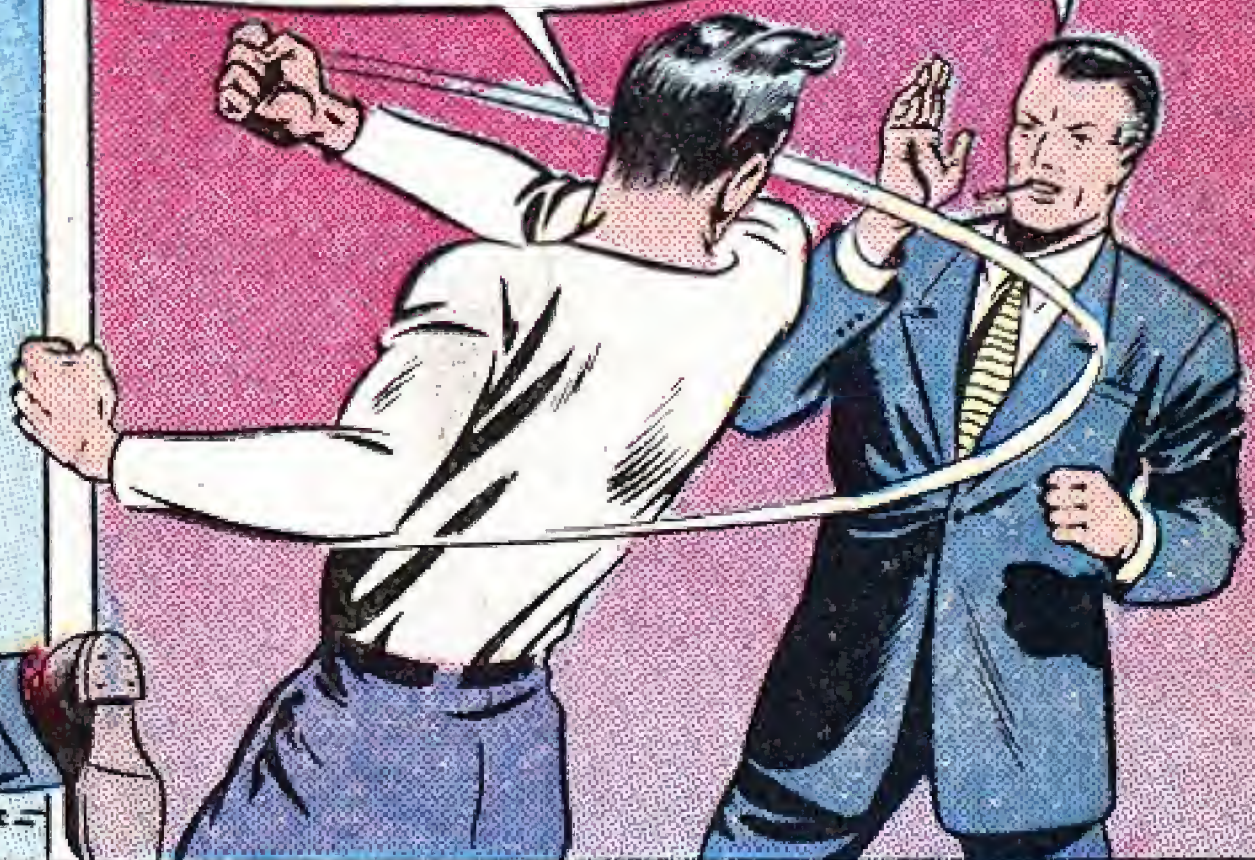


OOF!

BOTH MEN SCRAMBLE TO THEIR FEET AND...

I DON'T KNOW WHO
YOU ARE, CHUM, BUT
YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT!

NICE
TRY!



NOW THIS IS THE
WAY YOU DO IT!

WHAM!



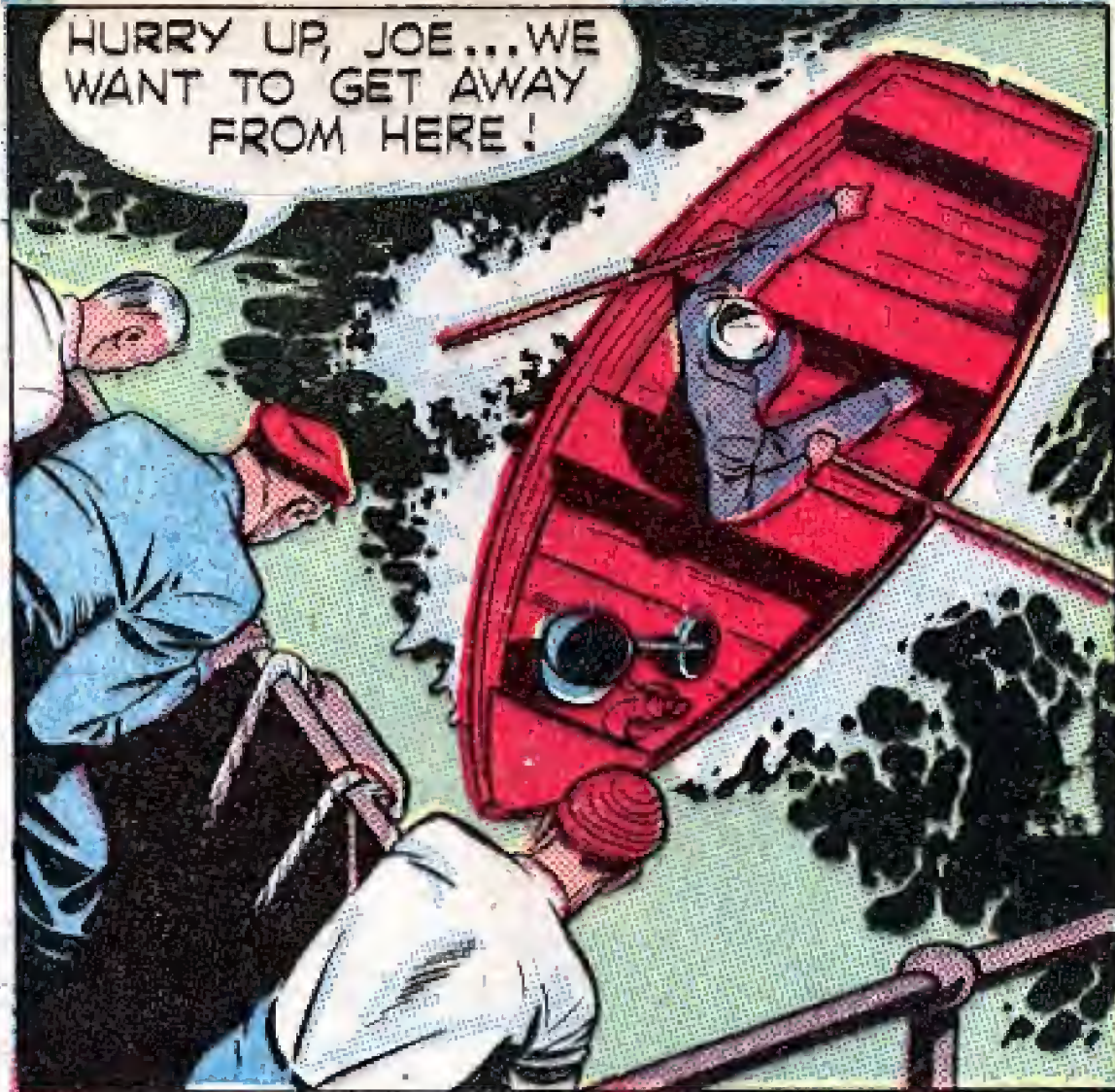
SOON...

I'LL NEED YOUR
CAP FOR A DISGUISE!
DON'T GET LONESOME.
I'LL SEND THE POLICE
AROUND LATER.

WHIP ROWS OUT TO THE STEAMER, WHICH HAS STOPPED TO PICK UP JOE.



HURRY UP, JOE...WE WANT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE!



HE'S NOT JOE!

HE'S A COPPER!

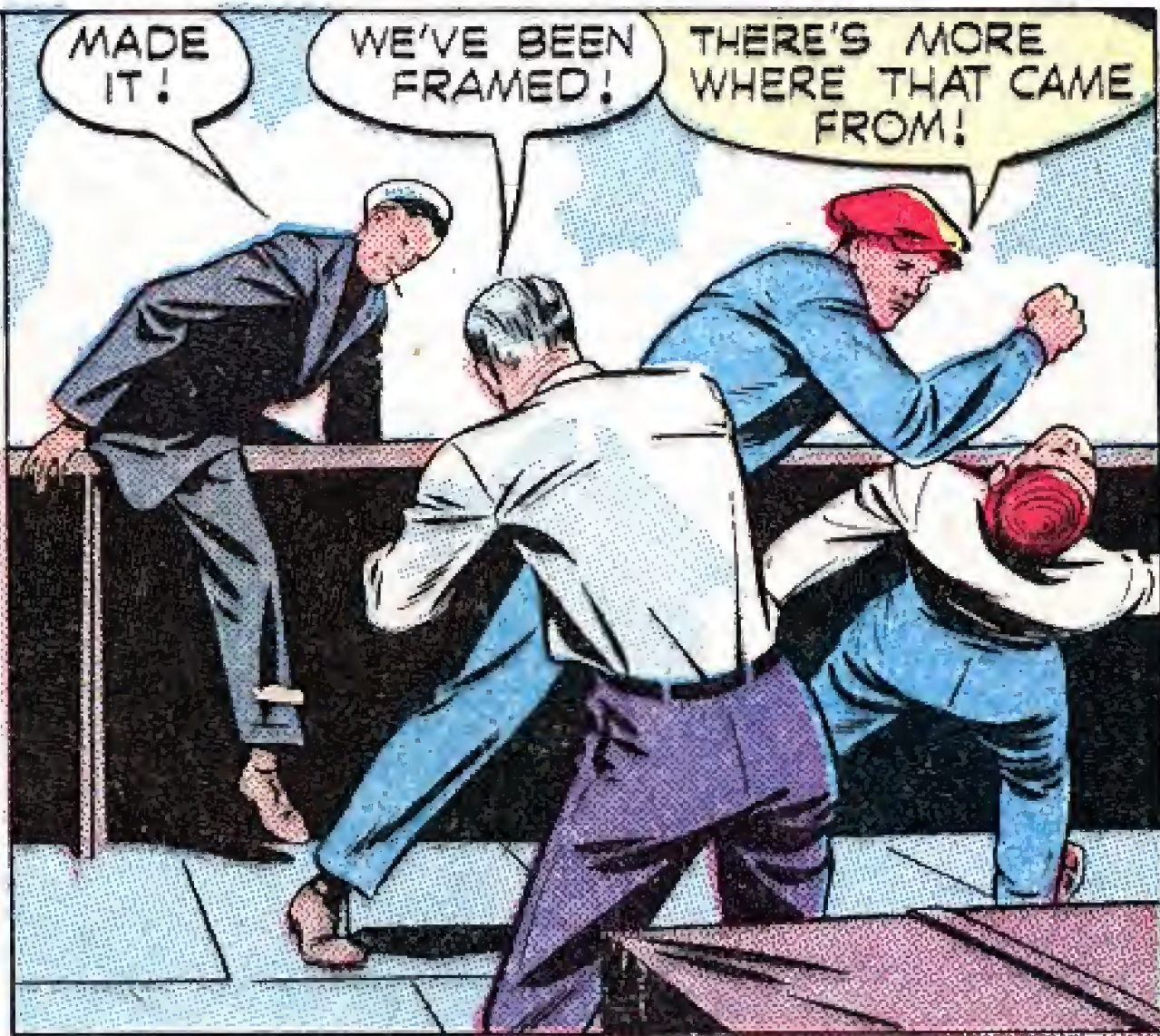
YOU'RE IN THE WAY, BOYS!



MADE IT!

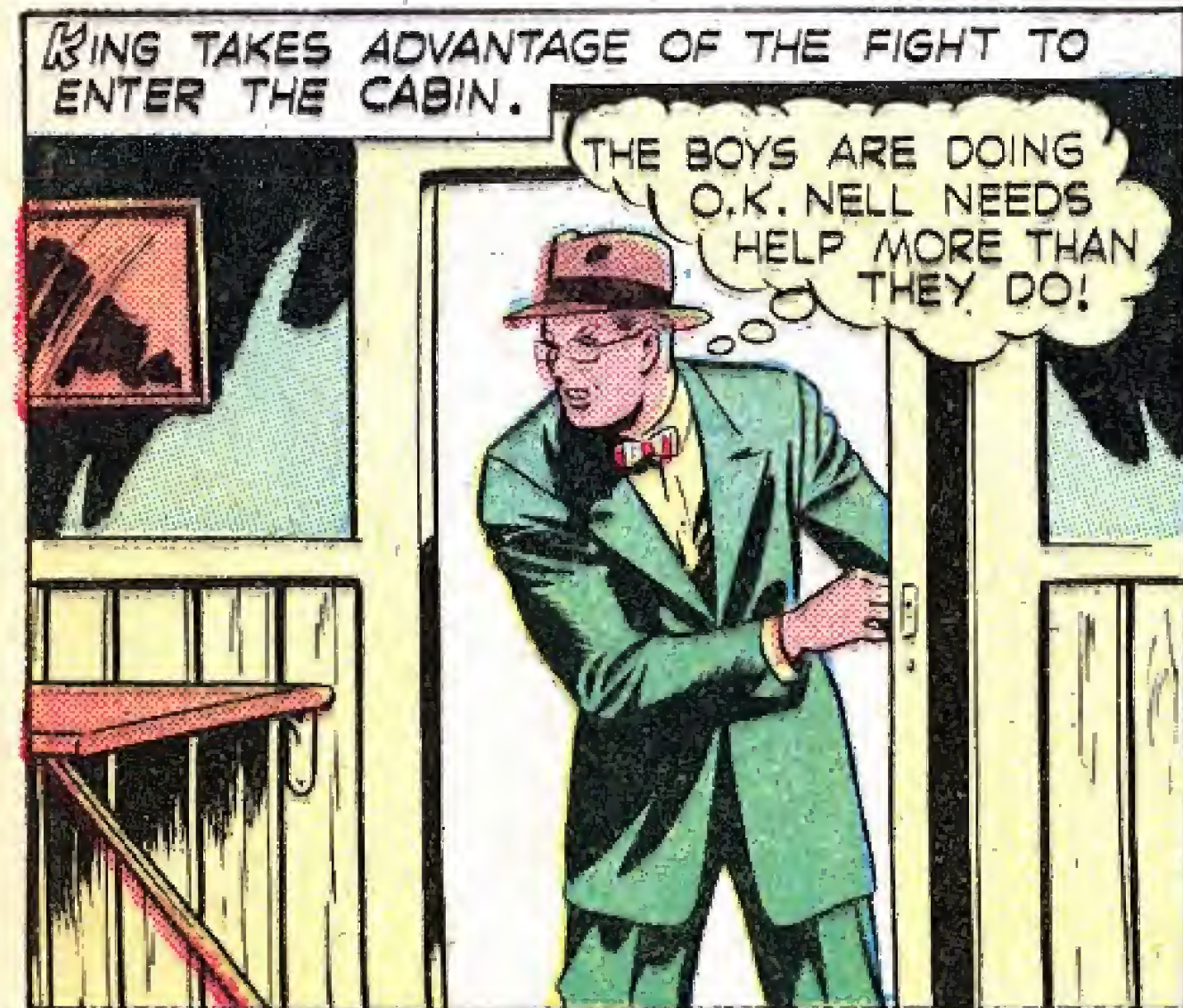
WE'VE BEEN FRAMED!

THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM!



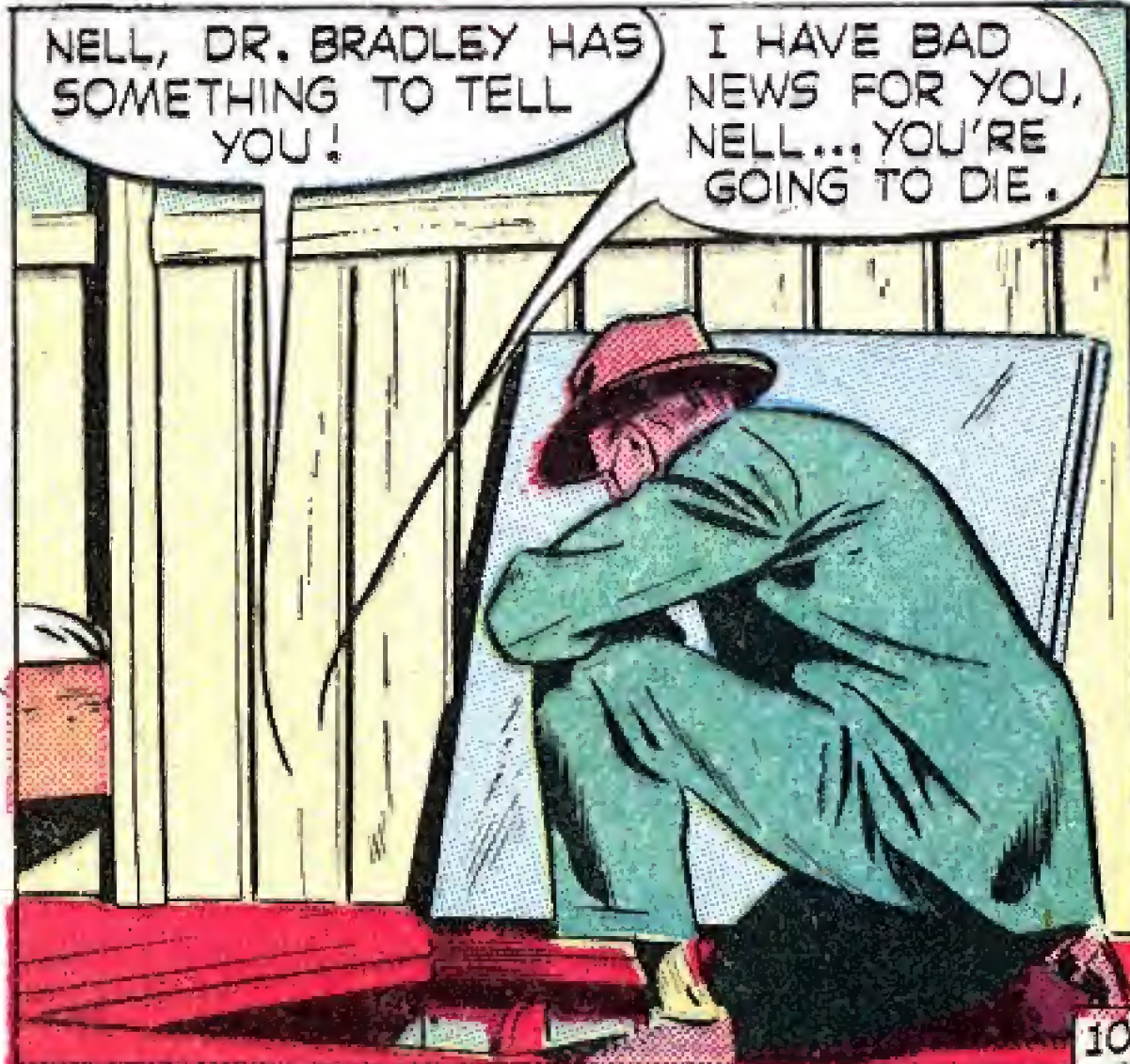
KING TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE FIGHT TO ENTER THE CABIN.

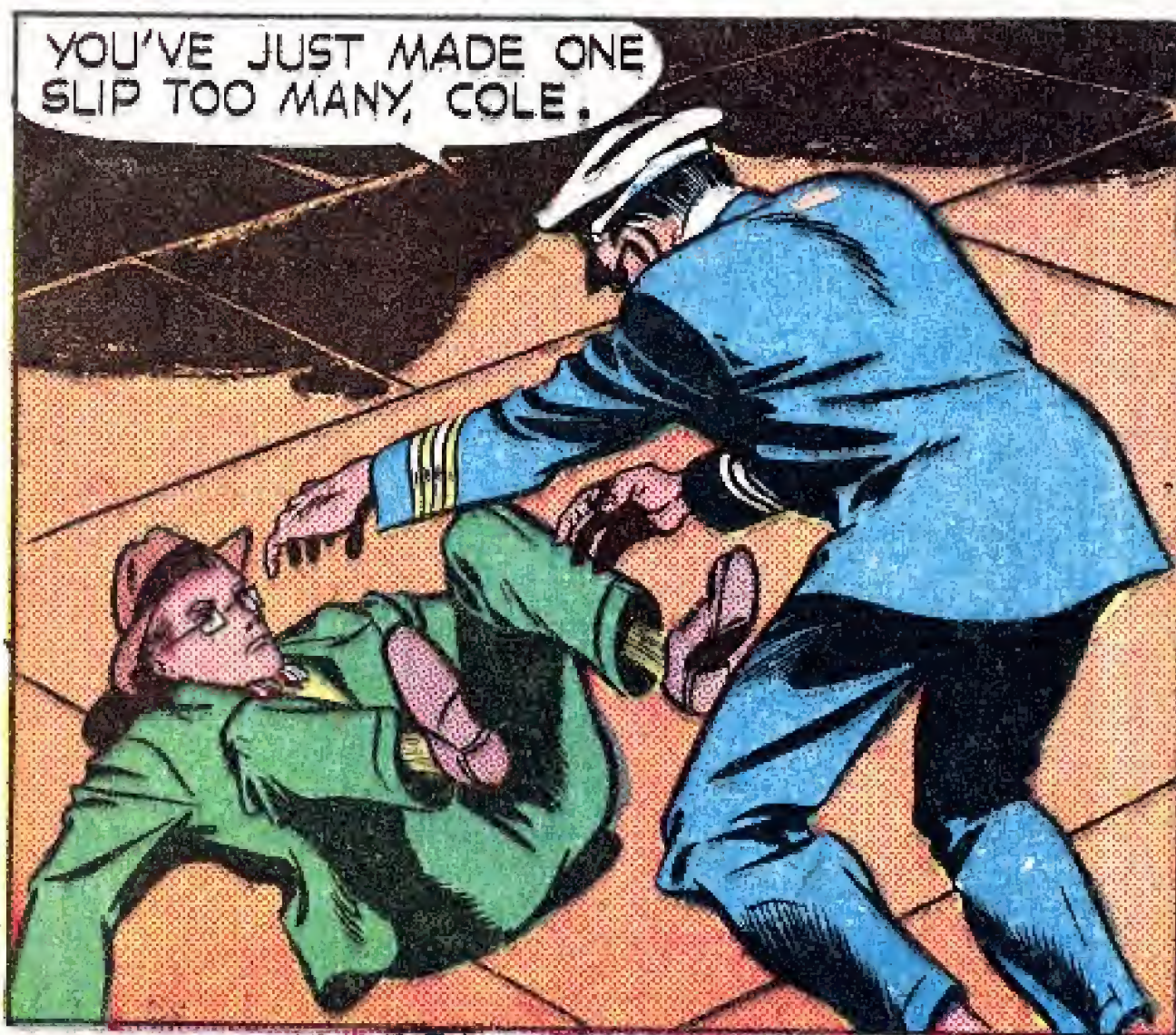
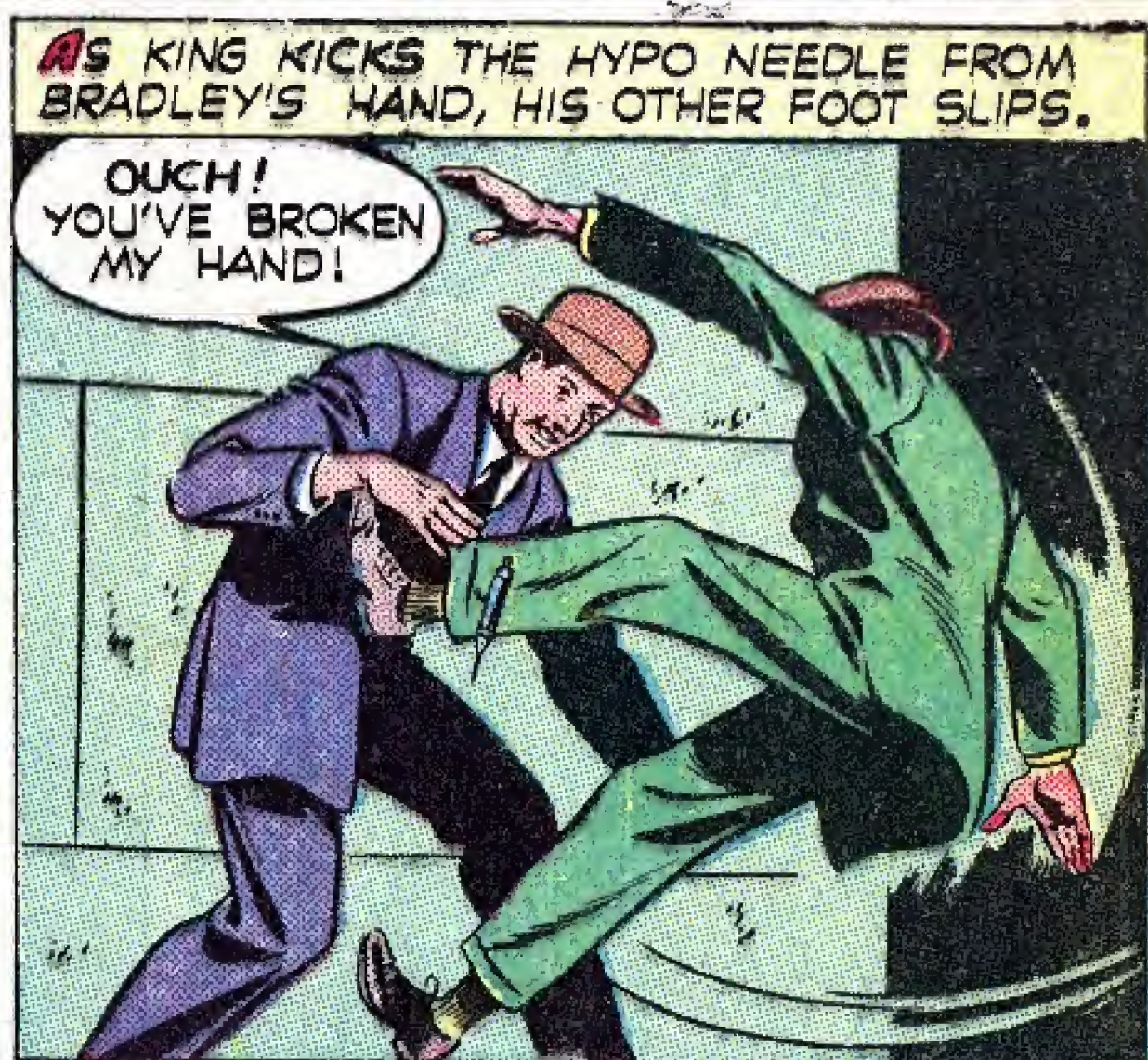
THE BOYS ARE DOING O.K. NELL NEEDS HELP MORE THAN THEY DO!

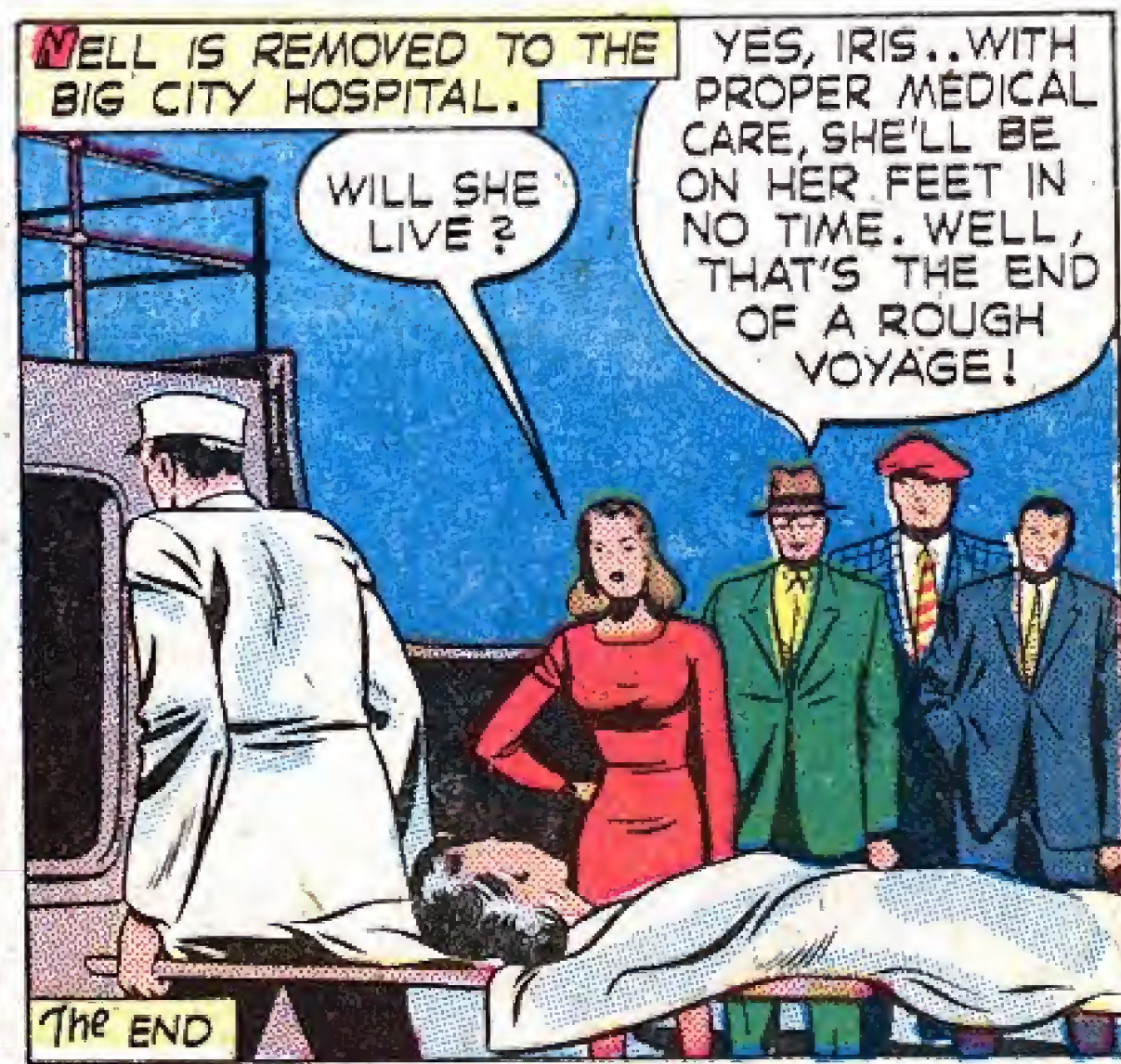
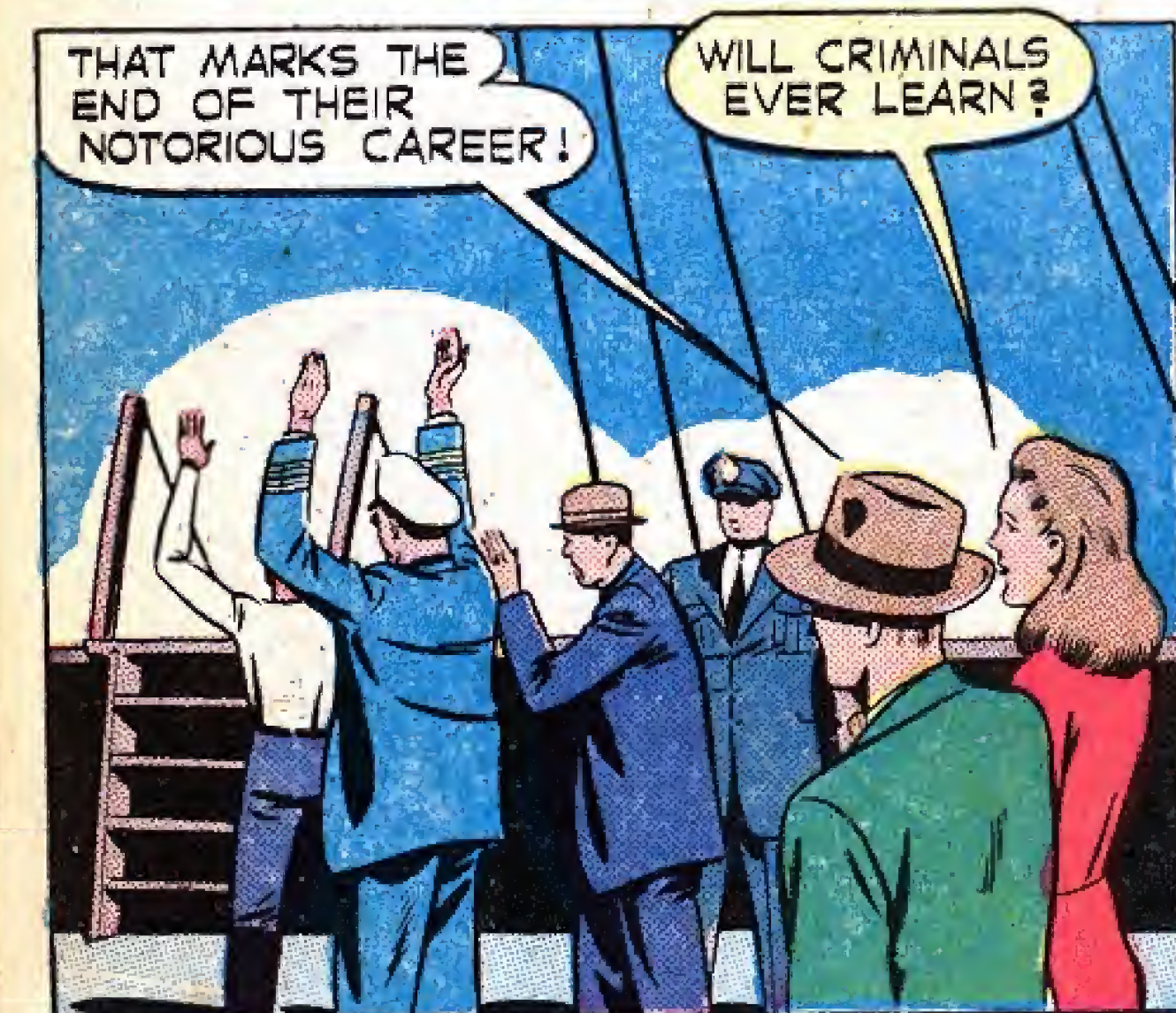
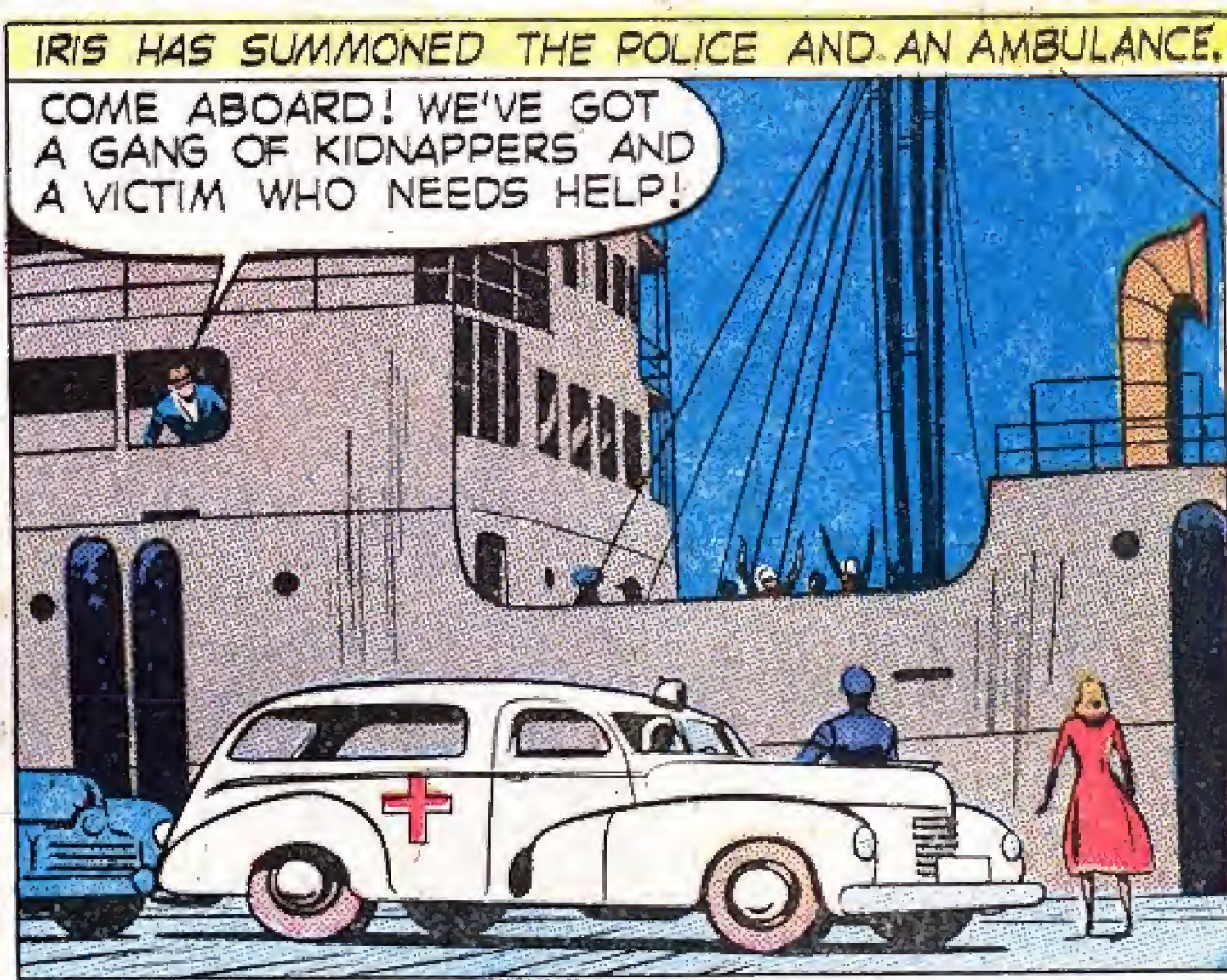
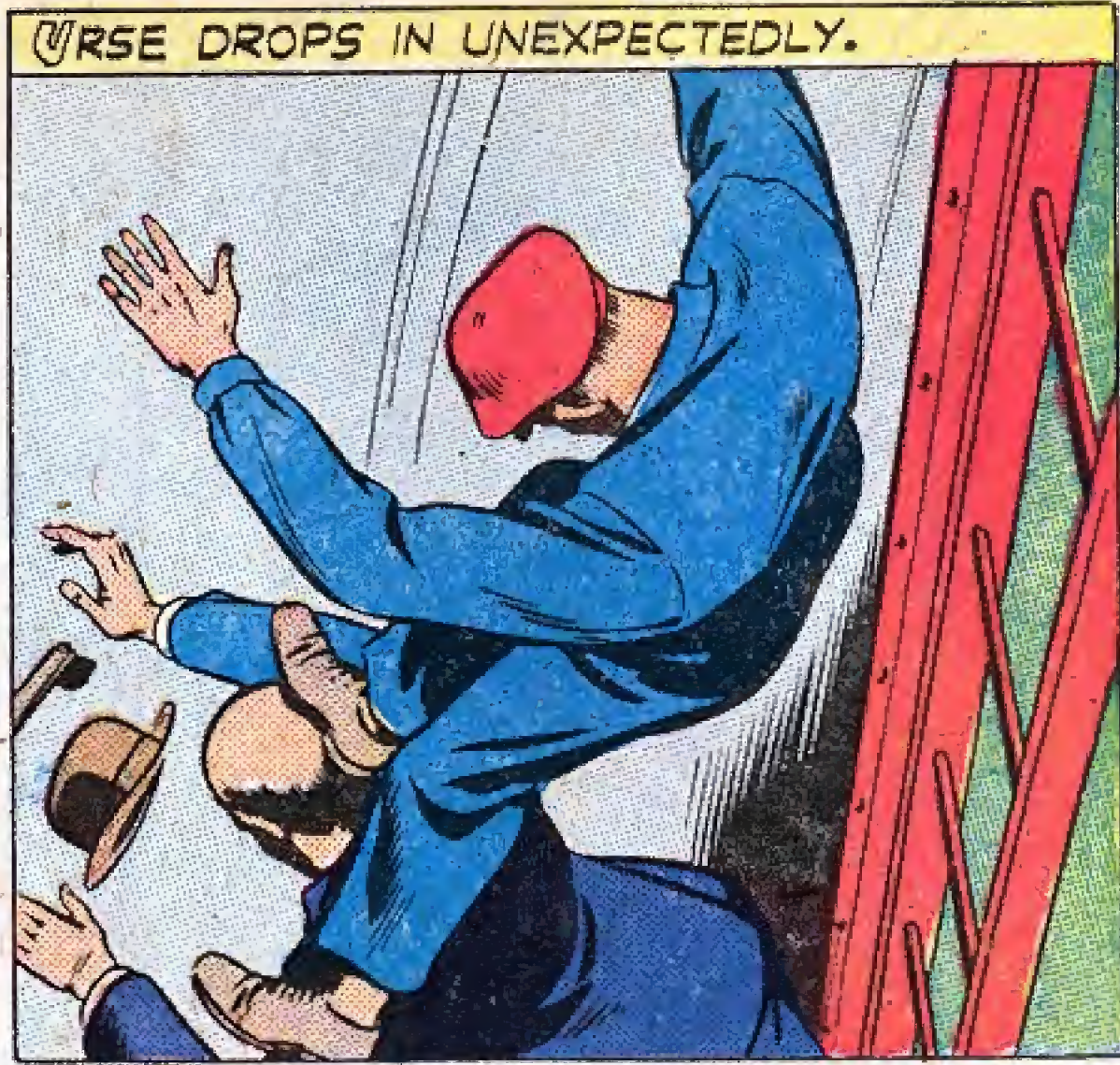
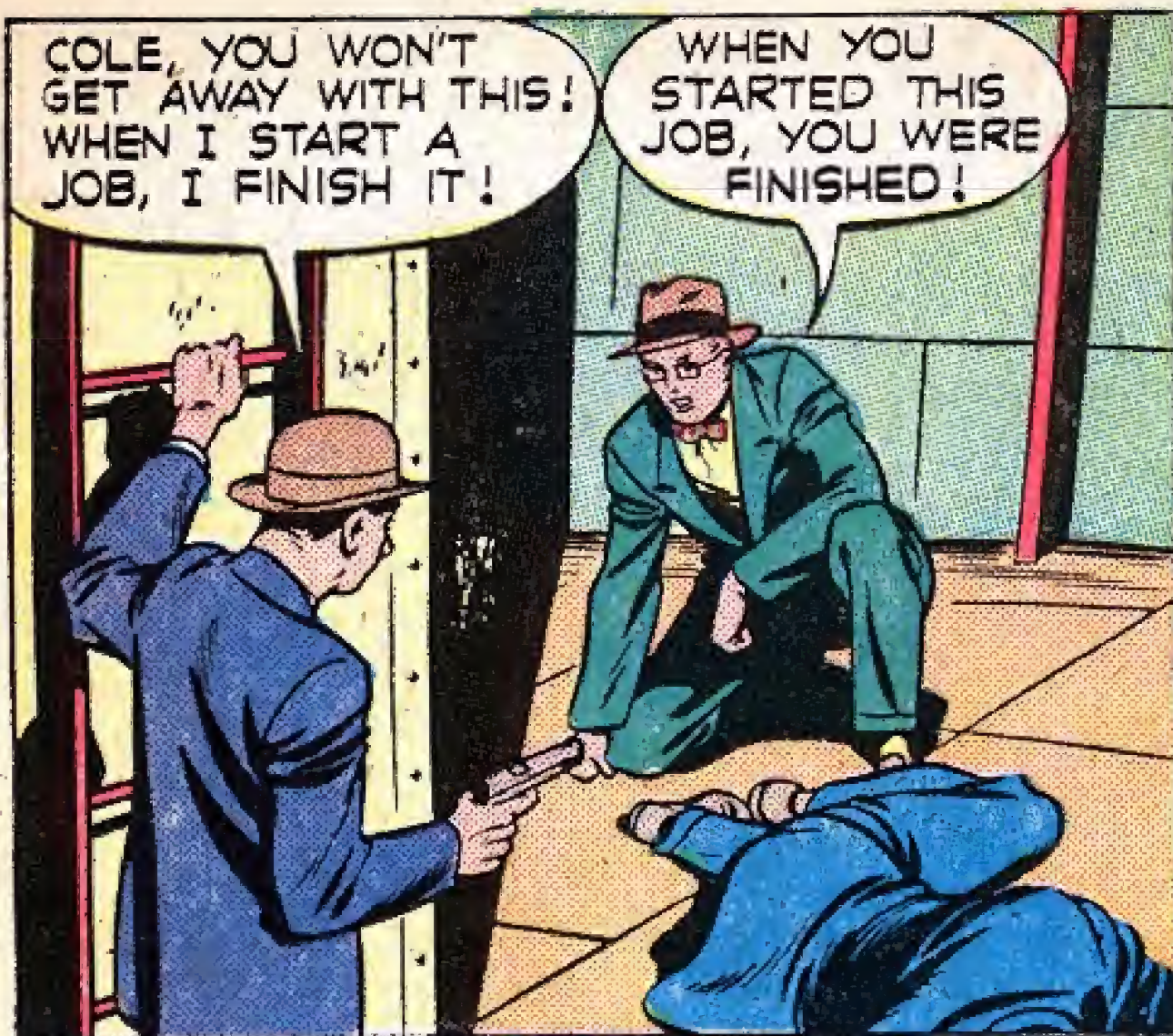


NELL, DR. BRADLEY HAS SOMETHING TO TELL YOU!

I HAVE BAD NEWS FOR YOU, NELL...YOU'RE GOING TO DIE.







BOYS! GIRLS! LADIES! MEN!

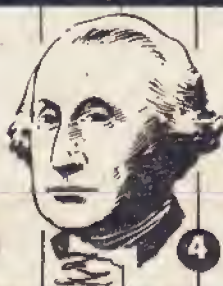
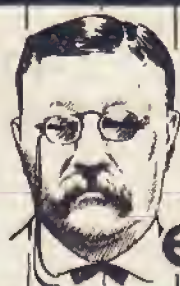
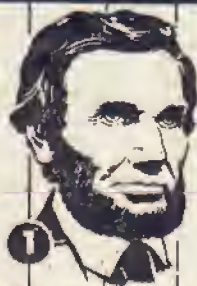
WIN A BEAUTIFUL SIGNET RING

ENGRAVED WITH YOUR OWN INITIAL

IT'S FUN! IT'S EASY!

★ All you do is... ★

NAME THESE FAMOUS U. S. PRESIDENTS



Just Get All 4 Right... We'll Send Your

GENUINE NICKEL SILVER SIGNET RING ABSOLUTELY FREE!

(A really terrific ring — made up with your own initial)

Also we'll mail **BIG CATALOG** showing many things you can get: Bikes, Dolls, Guns, Watches, etc. You'll be tickled pink and proud as a peacock to wear this strikingly beautiful ring. Wait till you see it! And it's so easy to win. Simply check on coupon the correct names of the 4 famous American Presidents shown in the pictures above and mail to us. If you name all 4 Presidents correctly, we will send you **ABSOLUTELY FREE** your **OWN PERSONAL SIGNET RING** — made up with your own

initial (you may have your choice of first letter of either first or last name.) Also, we will send you big FREE CATALOG of wonderful PREMIUMS — Bikes, Wrist Watches, Guns, Dolls, Cameras and dozens of others — and tell you how to get them! Simply offer White CLOVERINE BRAND SALVE, easily sold to friends, relatives and neighbors, at 50c a package, and choose your PREMIUM or CASH COMMISSION. But right now, name correctly the Presidents shown above and get your BEAUTIFUL SIGNET RING—ABSOLUTELY FREE! Rush coupon today!

HURRY! HURRY! CHECK YOUR ANSWERS ON THE COUPON...

Then mail coupon to win your
BEAUTIFUL SIGNET RING

Win genuine nickel silver SIGNET RING — ABSOLUTELY FREE! Just name correctly the 4 famous American Presidents pictured above. Check names on coupon—all in rest of coupon and mail to us. IT'S EASY TO WIN—ACT NOW!

WILSON CHEMICAL CO.

DEPT. W30 TYRONE, PA.

**MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY!
WIN A BEAUTIFUL SIGNET RING!**

Wilson Chemical Co., Dept. W-30 Tyrone, Pa.

Famous American Presidents shown in pictures are (check 4 only)

<input type="checkbox"/> George Washington	<input type="checkbox"/> Theodore Roosevelt	<input type="checkbox"/> Thomas Jefferson
<input type="checkbox"/> Abraham Lincoln	<input type="checkbox"/> Ulysses Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> James Madison

If I am a winner, rush my GENUINE NICKEL SILVER SIGNET, RING and 14 packages of White CLOVERINE BRAND SALVE to sell at 50¢ a package. I will remit amount asked within 30 days, select a PREMIUM or keep CASH COMMISSION as explained under Premium in Catalog sent with order, postage paid to start.

NAME _____ AGE _____

STREET _____ RD _____ BOX _____

TOWN _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

I want my Ring with this initial _____

[illegible][illegible]

 Paste coupon on post card or mail in envelope today!



IT wasn't too easy after seven years away from the Big Town to get a gun in a hurry. But twenty minutes after Waxie Doane got off the train from upstate he had one, . . . one with a silencer. He had a gun, and he knew precisely what he was going to do with it. He also had a green top coat and a small black bag.

As he waited for the subway that would take him uptown he pulled the newspaper from the pocket of the shabby green topcoat he'd bought in a second-hand store. He put the empty black bag down near his feet.

The paper was open at the theatrical page, and again he studied the photograph of "The LaPlantes" — especially Geoffrey LaPlante. He read the story again too and scowled. Geoffrey had come a long way since the days when the two of them — and Jessica — had starved in two-dollar rooms hoping for a part in a play. He laughed bitterly. He'd gotten sick of starving. He'd found ways to make money—real money; and he'd been doing all right with Jessica too until the night he'd been

caught flat-footed on that warehouse job. And you couldn't tell him Geoffrey didn't have something to do with that. He'd been a sucker to trust Geoffrey. So he'd spent seven years in stir,

That had made it fine for Geoffrey. With him out of the way — Waxie looked at the picture again and grimaced. It was Jessica LaPlante now; Jessica who had special gowns designed for her, special lipsticks, special coiffures—it was all in the paper. In that story right above the theatre notice that said: "The LaPlantes in 'A Woman's Choice,' Center Theatre at Eight O'clock." Waxie Doane remembered the days he'd hung around the Center looking for work. Yes, he sneered to himself, Geoffrey had come a long way since those days. He fingered the gun in his pocket. A long way, but this was the last stop—this was the end of the line.

The subway roared into the station and Waxie squirmed into the last car. He got out three stops later, walked up to the street and into the blaze of light and crowds that was the

theatre district. That was what he was counting on, noise and crowds and confusion — the confusion that is backstage before the curtain goes up.

For a second he stood still, looking at the lights that spelled out the name of Geoffrey LaPlante. He grinned crookedly. They'd have to change that sign tomorrow.

He crossed the street and walked down the small alley that led to the stage door of the Center. This would be the only hard part. To get in that door.

He pulled his hat-brim low and turned up his collar. He swung the little black bag and hurried toward the door. It was open, and Waxie could see a bored-looking cop lounging inside. He walked through the door, nodded briskly to the cop. "Emergency," he barked. The cop took in the black bag and let him pass. "Okay, doc," he said, "anything I can do, let me know."

Waxie brushed by actors dashing about in last-minute preparations, past dressing rooms of the small fry, until he came to the door he was looking for. The door with a

gold star painted on it. He didn't knock. LaPlante was alone, seated at a big dressing table putting on make-up. On a chair near him was a woman's fur coat and handbag. The air was full of a strange heavy perfume. Waxie's gun was out and he said: "Sorry you can't kiss Jessica good-bye, Geoffrey."

Geoffrey LaPlante turned, his jaw slack. "Waxie!" he whispered. "What —?" Then he saw the gun. With desperate speed he grabbed a bottle from the dressing table and flung it. He missed. The bottle shattered against the wall close to Waxie's head and pieces of it stung his cheek.

Waxie shot twice and Geoffrey LaPlante sprawled heavily to the floor. He had two small black holes in his chest.

Waxie stood quietly for a minute listening. There wasn't a sound from outside that wasn't normal. He hadn't been heard. He slipped the gun in his pocket, picked up the black bag, and closed the door softly behind him. Then he walked swiftly out to the street again.

The cop's eyes were curious but Waxie nodded to him. "Some silly dame," he said, "thought she had a heart attack—too much lousy food."

It didn't take Waxie long to ditch the gun, the black bag and the overcoat in a garbage can. Then he went to a hamburger joint for some coffee. The clock on the wall said five minutes to eight, and Waxie

chuckled to himself. They'd probably found LaPlante by now and half the cops in town must be out looking for a fake doctor in a green topcoat. He shrugged. Let them look, for all the good it would do them.

For two hours he sat in the diner unmindful of the smell of frying onions and stale tobacco. Waxie was thinking. He was thinking that after things cooled off a bit, maybe after six months or so, he'd look up Jessica. It wouldn't be hard to get back in the racket again—make some dough. Jessica had always liked him—maybe. He smiled at the thought. He could wait. He'd waited seven years for tonight. He could wait for Jessica too.

The subway out of town that night was crowded but Waxie managed to find a seat. It was next to a cop and he grinned to himself. The cop had his face buried in a newspaper and was reading about the murder of Geoffrey LaPlante. Waxie stole a glimpse at the headlines. Something about the "Mysterious Doctor In Green—" He chuckled. Maybe they'd found his overcoat. He yawned in the stuffy heat of the car. The paper bored him. He had other things to think about. He pulled his hat over his eyes and dozed.

Somebody was shaking him and he opened his eyes. It was the cop. "End of the line, bud," he was saying.

"Huh?" muttered Waxie. Then he noticed that there were only two people in the car, he and the cop. Before Waxie could move the cop expertly snapped a pair of handcuffs on his wrists.

"What's the idea?" Waxie yelled, "I ain't done nothin'!" But a feeling of trapped terror went through him at what the cop was saying:

"So some dame ate too much lousy food, eh? Emergency, was it? You're under arrest for the murder of Geoffrey LaPlante—doctor. When you got on I thought you looked familiar. Then when the car got heated up you smelled familiar. I've been detailed to guard that stage door for too long not to recognize that smell — the special perfume Jessica LaPlante uses. It's made just for her. It's the kind Geoffrey LaPlante threw at you before you killed him. I don't know who you are, but we'll find out soon enough down at headquarters."

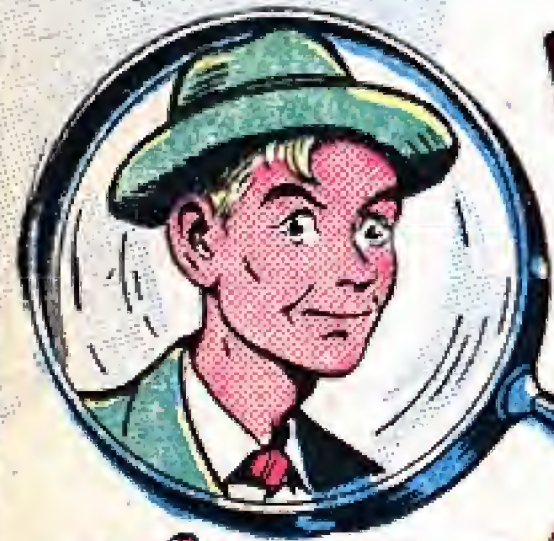
The cop jerked off Waxie's hat. "That's a stir haircut if I ever saw one. Next time they'll take a lot off the top—and you won't be sittin' in a barber's chair." The cop's fingers bit into Waxie's arm. "Come on, you," he growled. "Like I said, it's the end of the line."

THE END

Homer K. BEAGLE

The
DEMON DETECTIVE

Story by Robert Plate
Art by Harvey K. Fuller



HOMER MAY NOT BE BRIGHT,
BUT HE LOVES HIS WORK.
IN FACT, HE GETS QUITE A
KICK OUT OF THE STRANGE
"THE MISSING WORMS"!



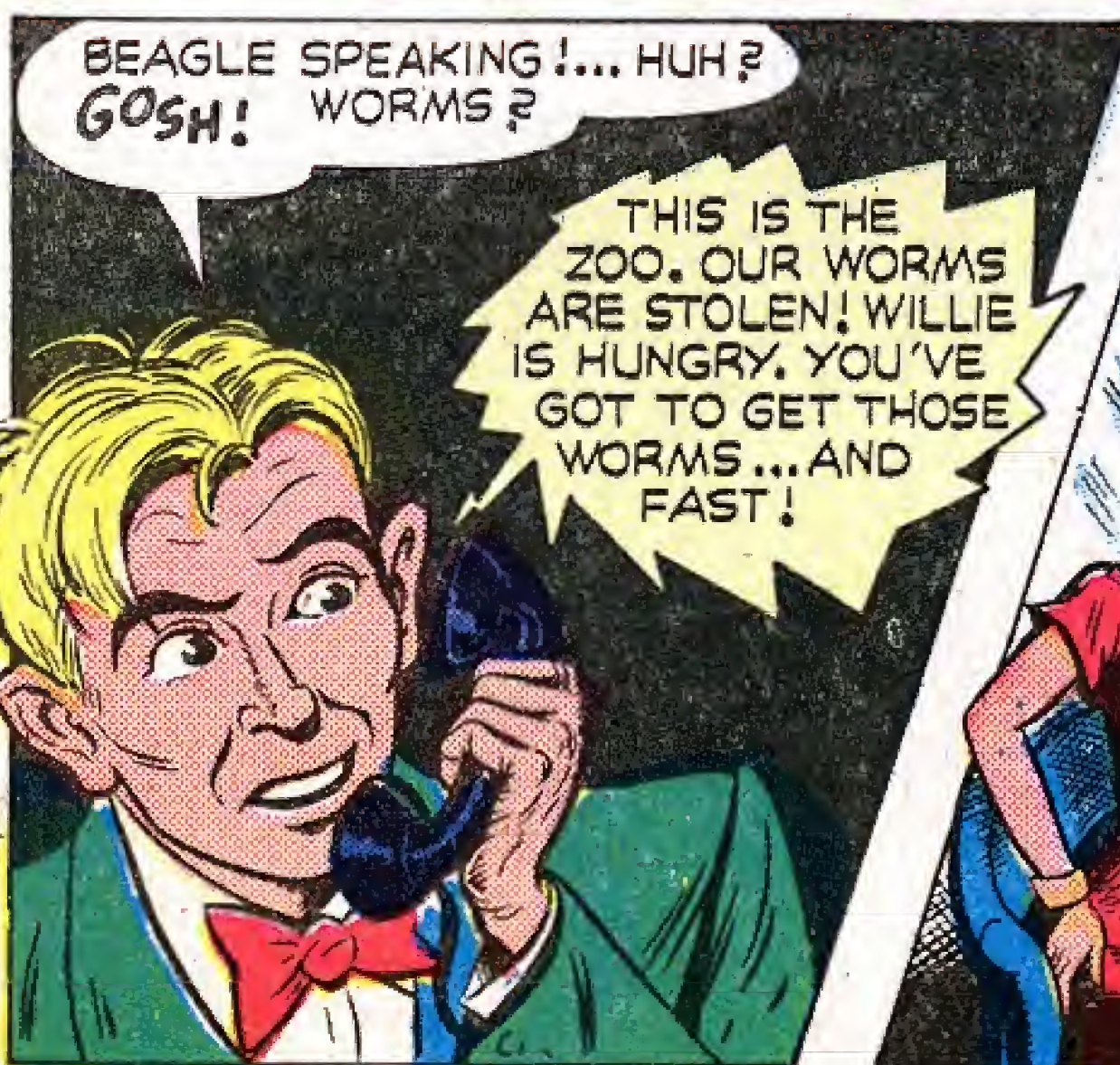
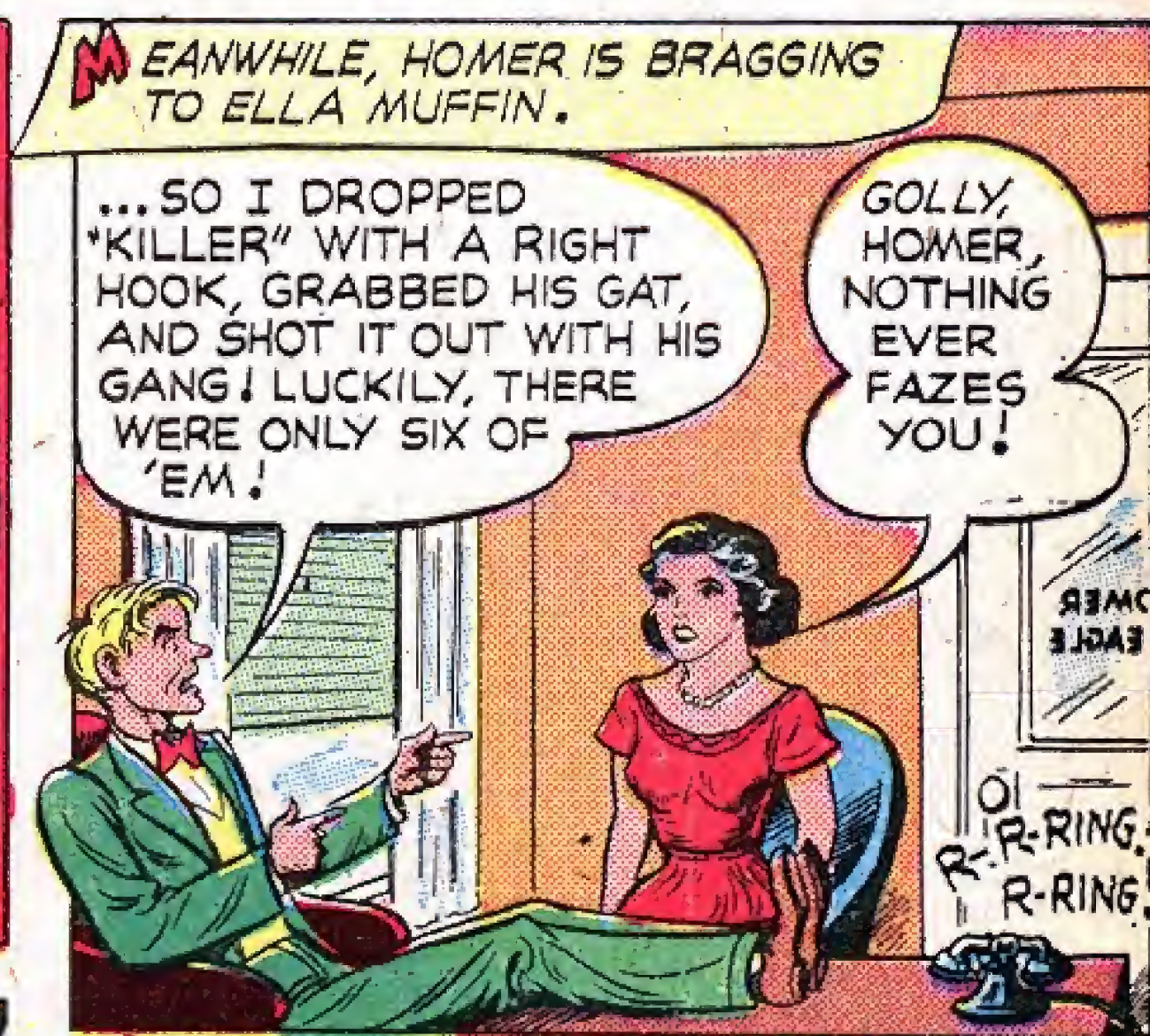
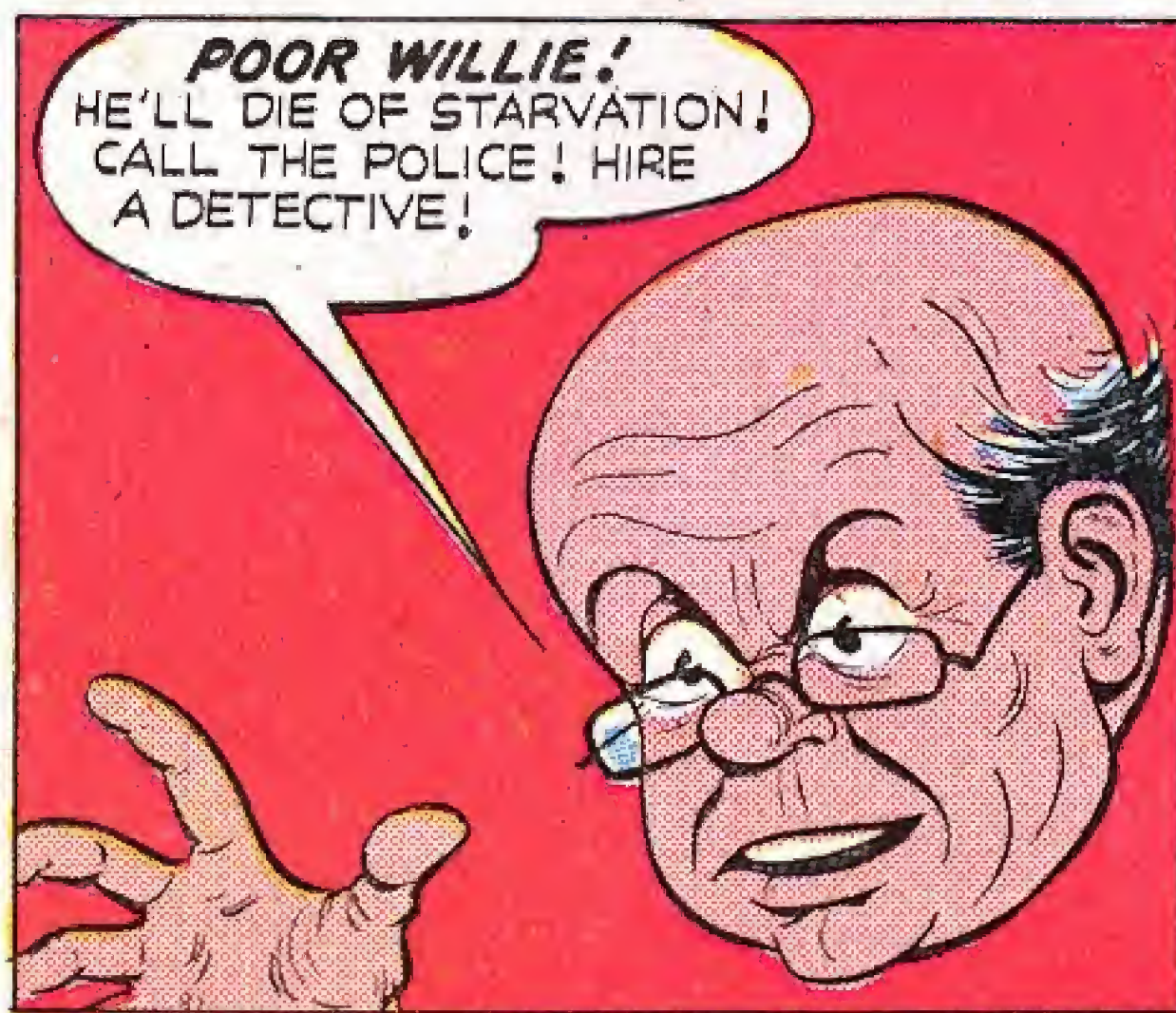
AT THE ZOO, THE DIRECTOR SHOWS A GUEST AROUND.

WILLIE IS THE PRIZE OF OUR ZOO. VERY
RARE... AND VERY GLUTTONOUS! GOBBLES UP
A THOUSAND WORMS A DAY!



AUSTRALIAN
PLATYPUS
Home "WILLIE"







I MUST LEAVE. I'VE GOT TO GET... UH.. "WORMS" MCGREW, THE KILLER!

HOW THRILLING! YOU'RE **SO** BRAVE, HOMER!



HOMER PUTS HIS MASTERMIND TO WORK, BUT IS BAFFLED.

LET'S SEE. WHO WOULD WANT 50,000 WORMS? NOBODY! WHERE COULD THEY BE? I DUNNO!...
AW, PHOOEY!

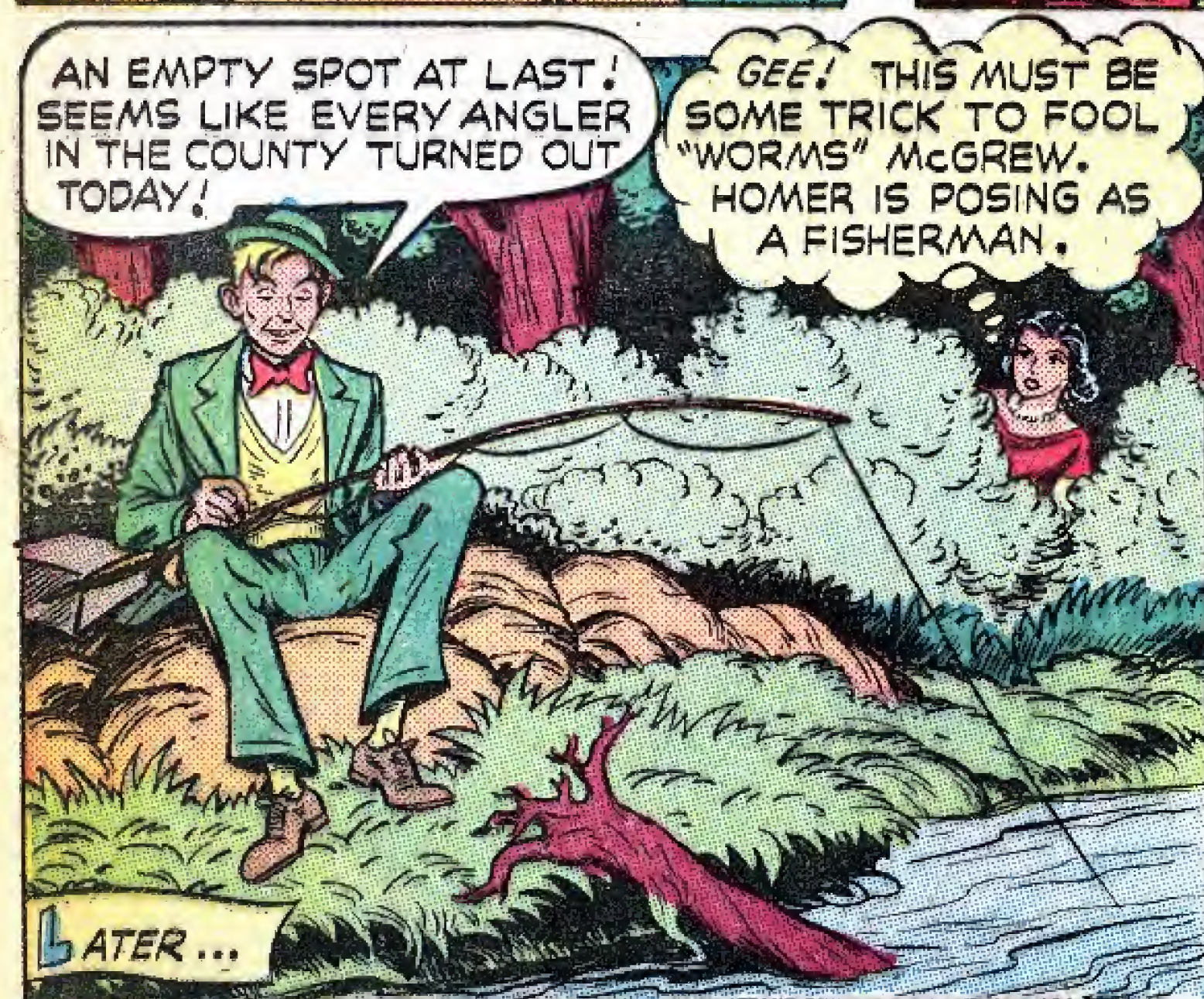


THE CASE DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. I MIGHT AS WELL ENJOY THE FIRST DAY OF THE FISHING SEASON WHILE I THINK!



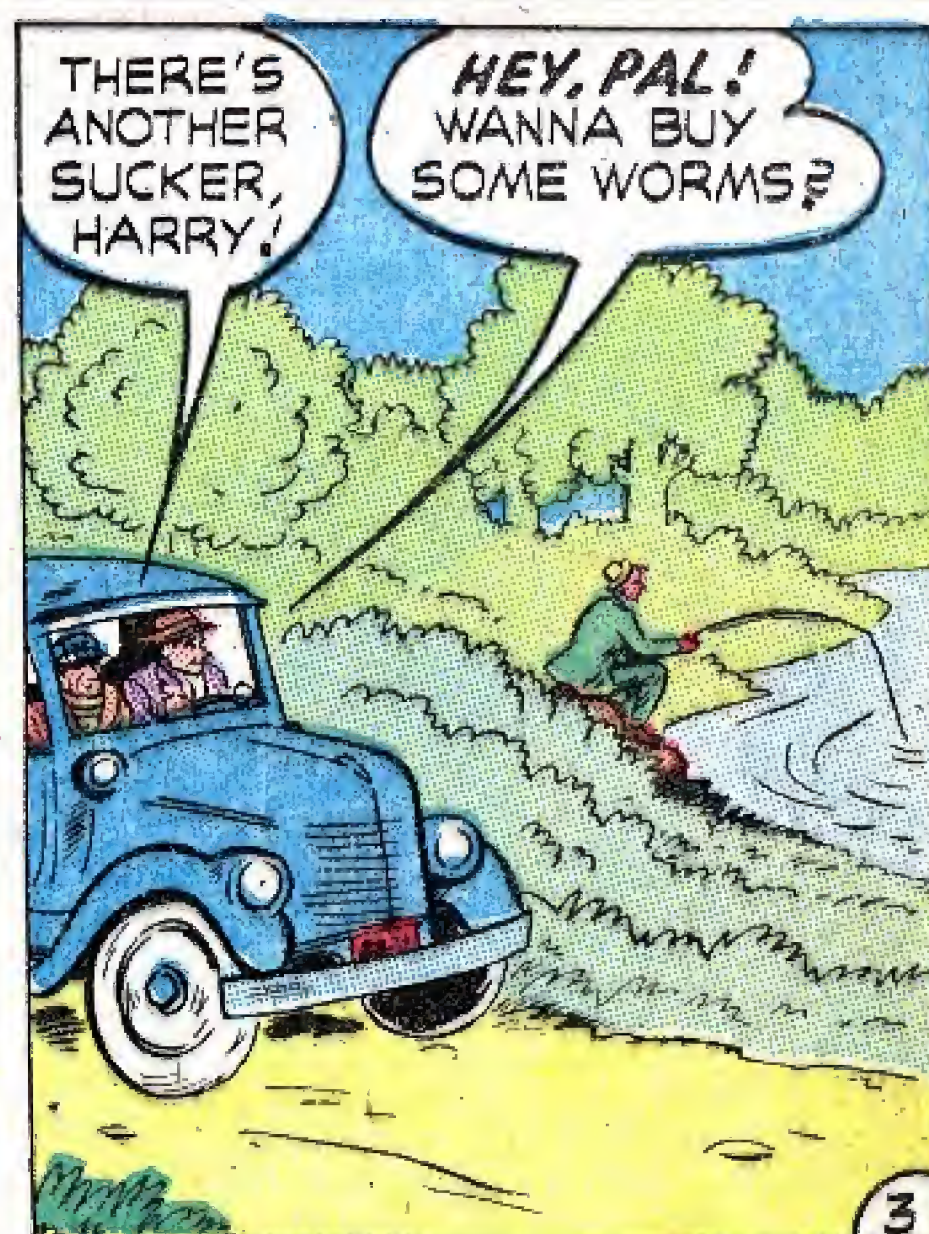
SOON...

THERE HE GOES! I'M GOING TO FOLLOW! IT MUST BE THRILLING TO SEE HOMER IN ACTION!



AN EMPTY SPOT AT LAST! SEEMS LIKE EVERY ANGLER IN THE COUNTY TURNED OUT TODAY!

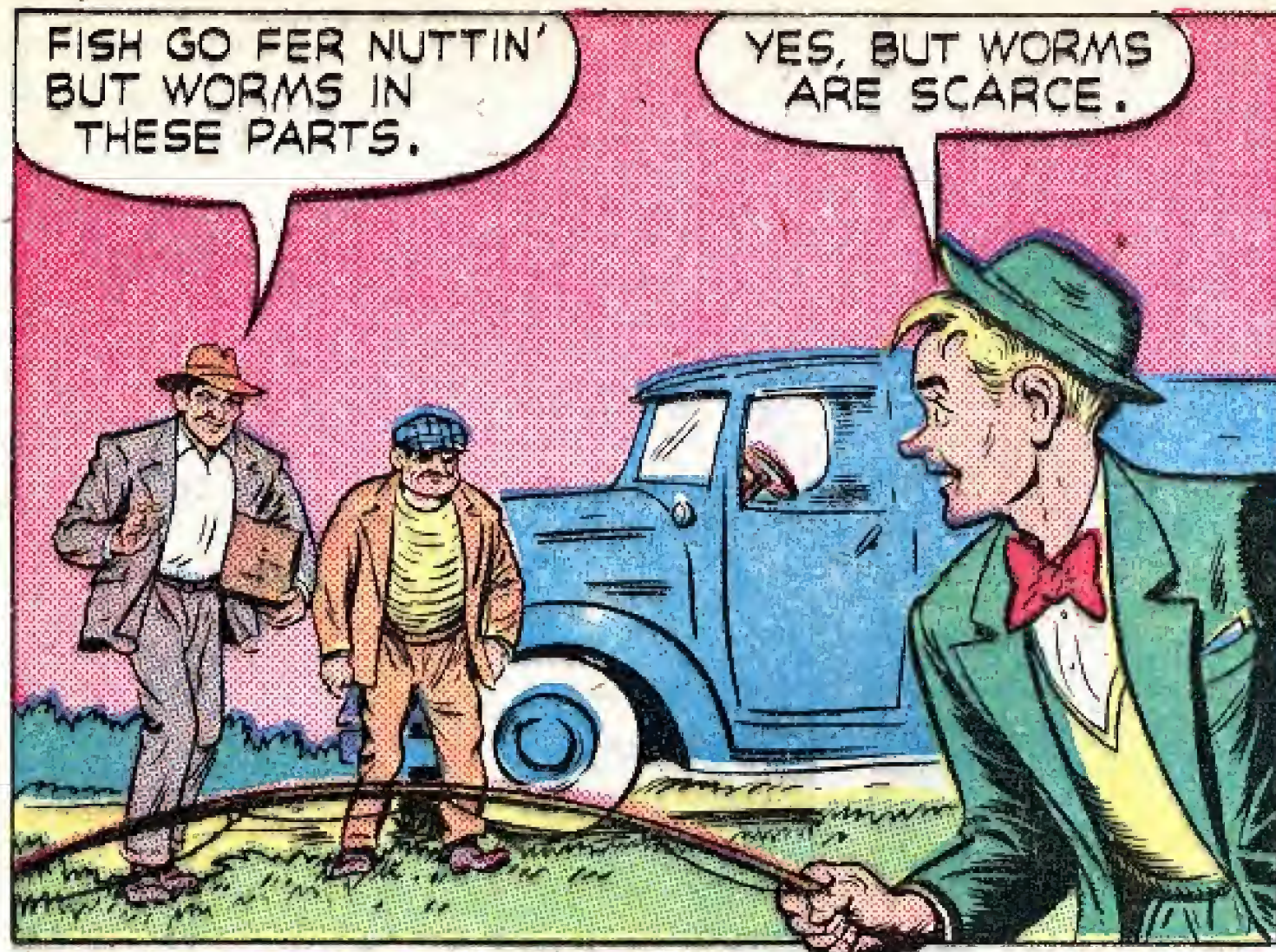
GEE! THIS MUST BE SOME TRICK TO FOOL "WORMS" MCGREW. HOMER IS POSING AS A FISHERMAN.



THERE'S ANOTHER SUCKER, HARRY!

HEY, PAL! WANNA BUY SOME WORMS?

LATER...



FISH GO FER NUTTIN' BUT WORMS IN THESE PARTS.

YES, BUT WORMS ARE SCARCE.

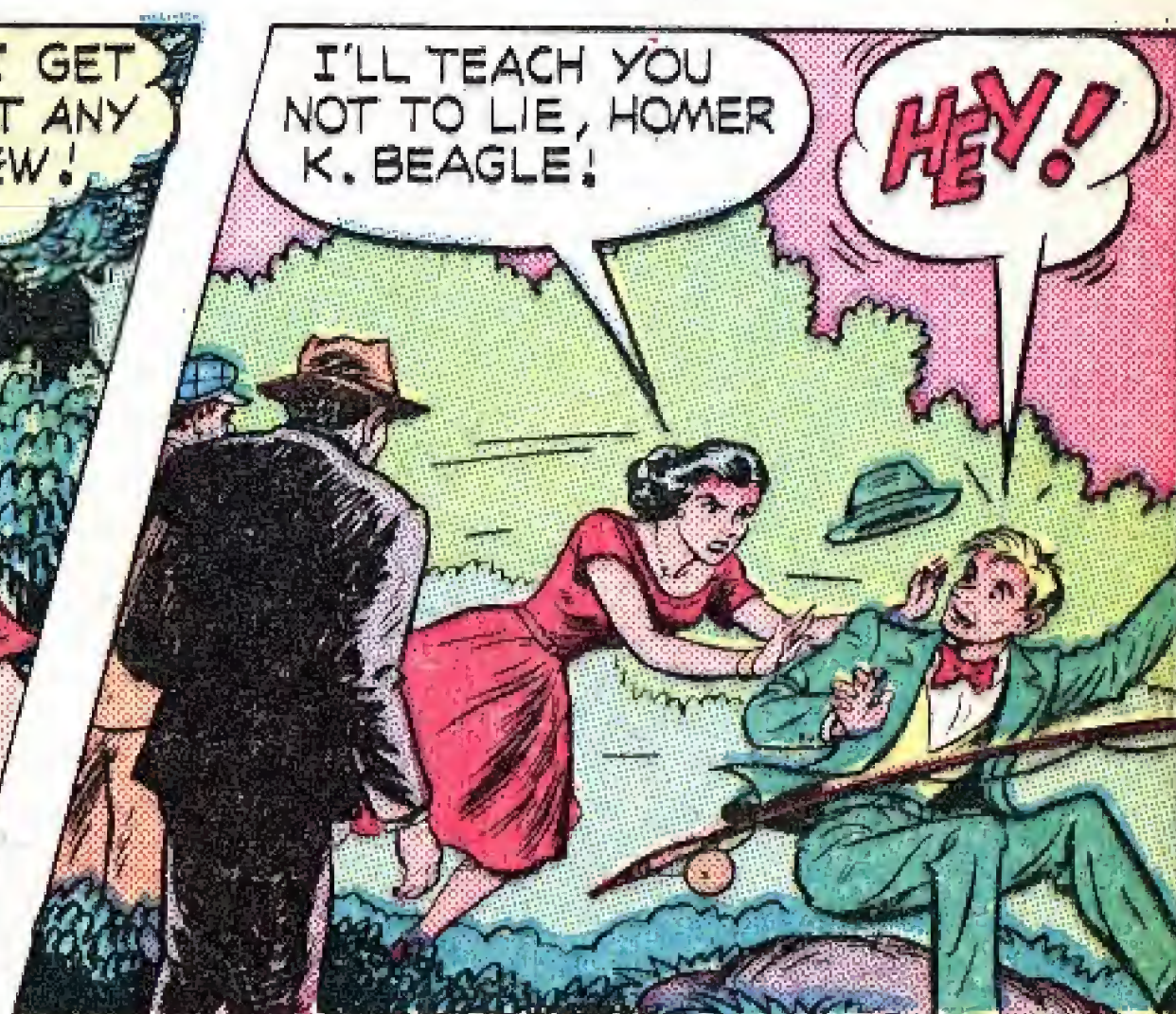
WE GOT A WHOLE TRUCK FULL! YA CAN HAVE A DOZEN FER FIVE SMACKERS!

WHY NOT SELL SOME TO THE ZOO? I HEAR ALL THEIR WORMS WERE STOLEN!



SO WHAT? DO YOU WANT 'EM OR DONCHA? THEY'RE GOIN' LIKE HOT CAKES!

STOLEN WORMS! I GET IT NOW. THERE ISN'T ANY "WORMS" MCGREW!



I'LL TEACH YOU NOT TO LIE, HOMER K. BEAGLE!

HEY!



WORM! AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A DETECTIVE?

HUH? DETECTIVE!

KERSPLASH!



I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

ELLA, I REALLY AM ON A CASE! I GOTTA GET THE ZOO WORMS!

HEY, HE'S AFTER US! LET'S SLUG DA PUNK!

YOU AIN'T GOIN' NO PLACE, PAL!

WHACK!



THE BOX BREAKS, CASCADING WORMS OVER HOMER AND INTO HIS POCKETS!



DAZED, HOMER THINKS HE IS FISHING.

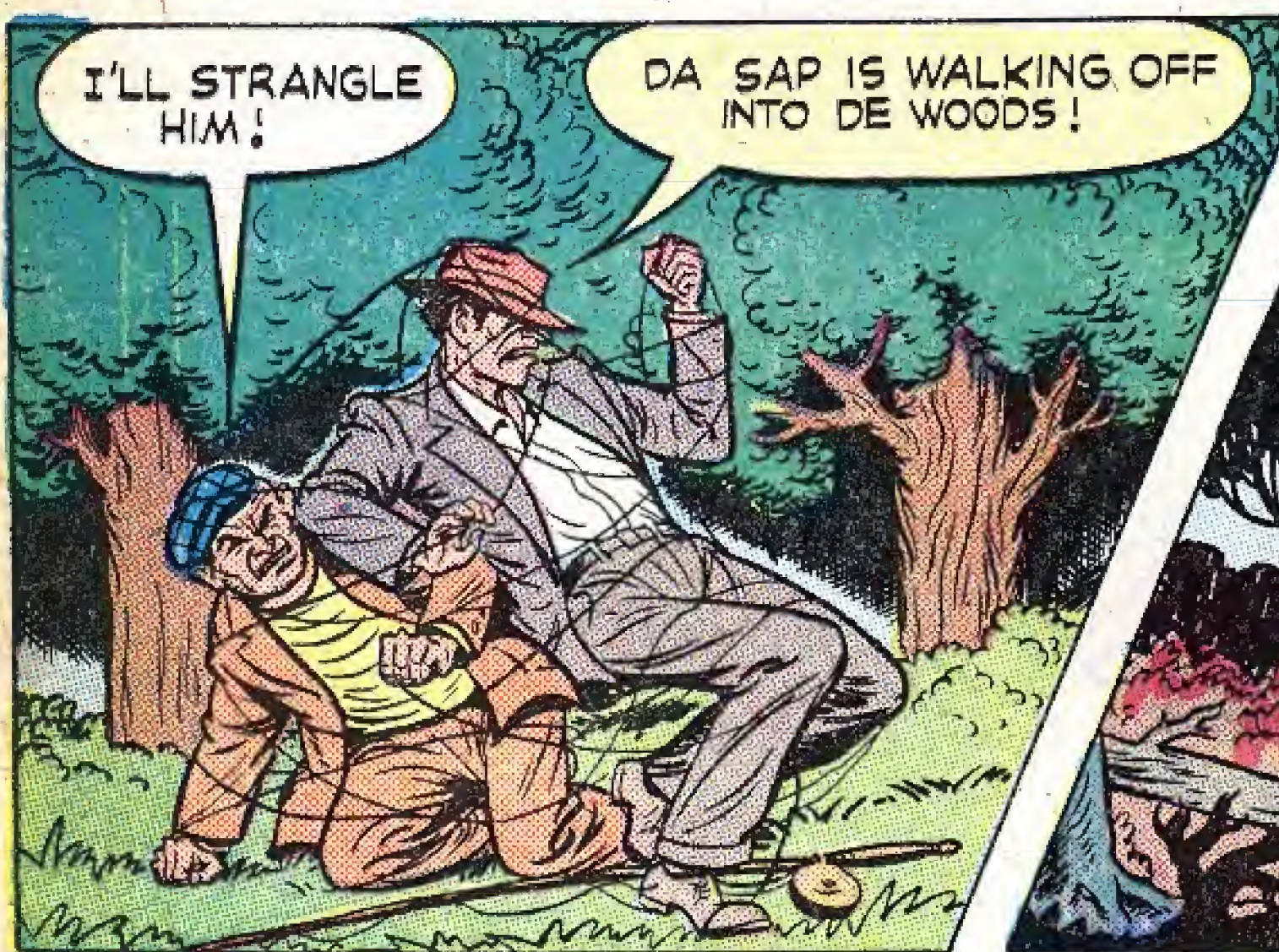
AH! THERE ARE TWO BIG FISH!

LOOK OUT! HE'S PUNCHY!



I'LL STRANGLE HIM!

DA SAP IS WALKING OFF INTO DE WOODS!



I'M TIRED OF FISHING. THINK I'LL TAKE A NAP.

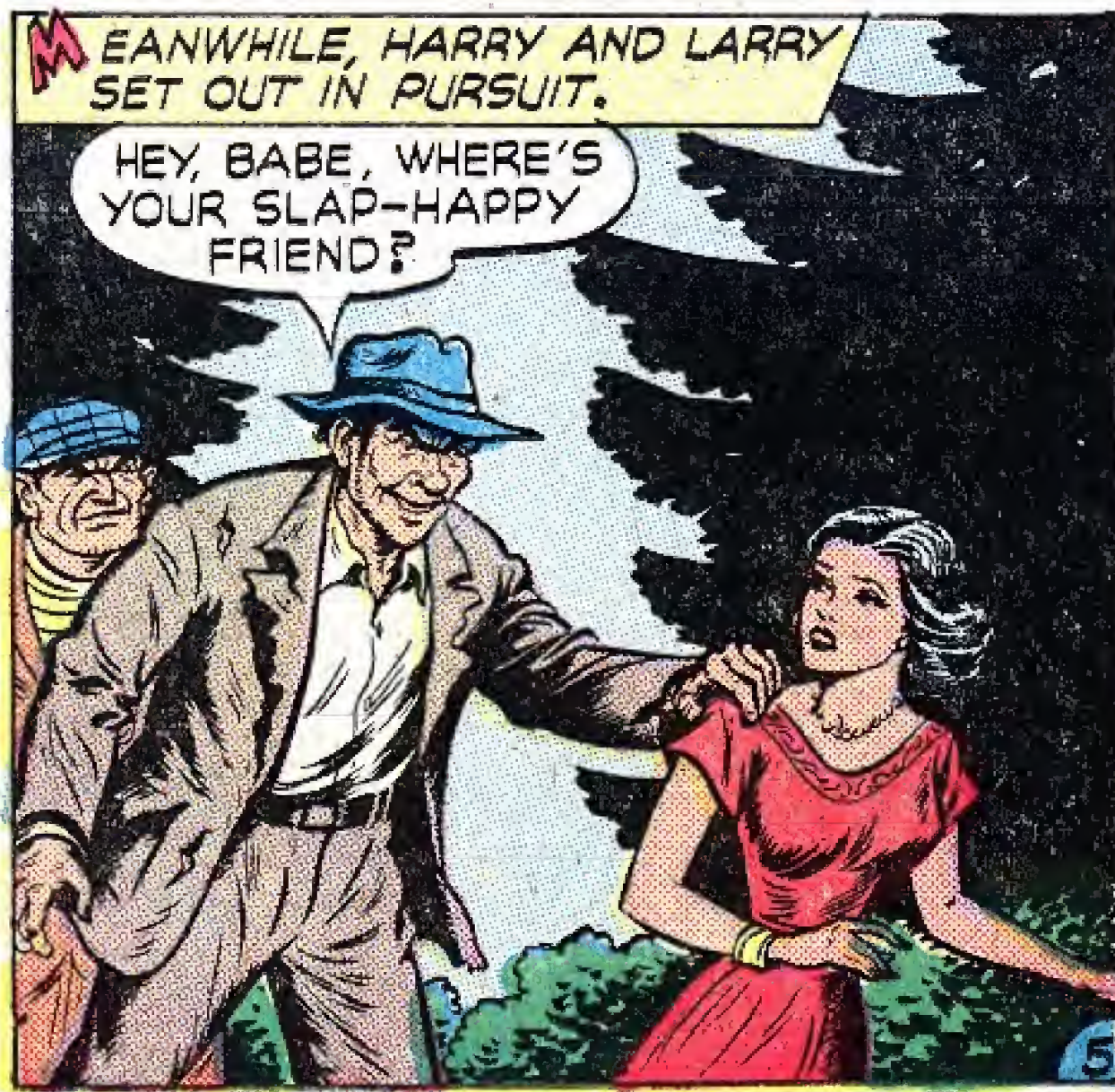


NOTHING LIKE A PEACEFUL DAY IN THE OUTDOORS TO MAKE YOU FEEL DROWSY!



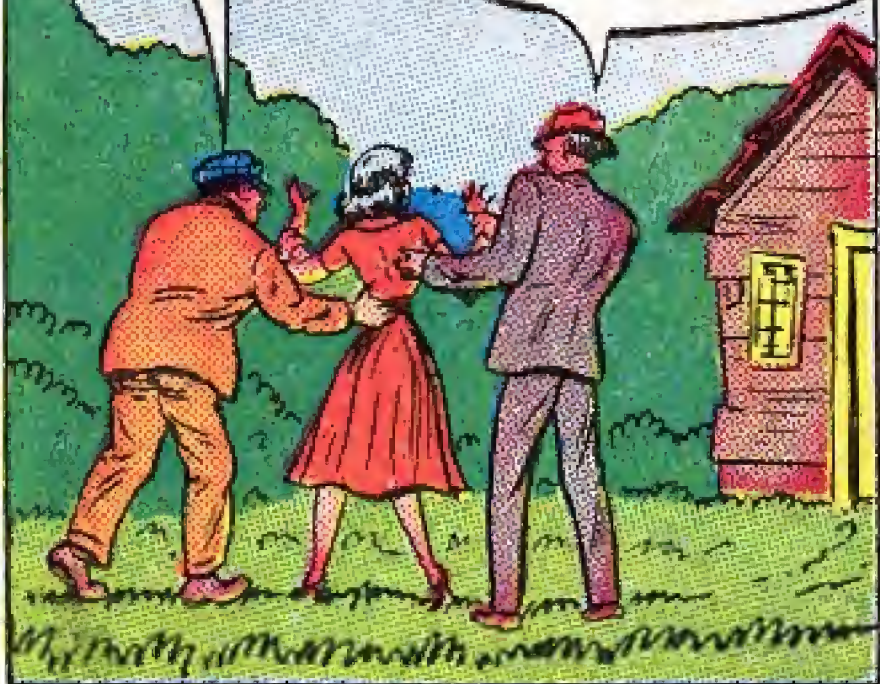
MEANWHILE, HARRY AND LARRY SET OUT IN PURSUIT.

HEY, BABE, WHERE'S YOUR SLAP-HAPPY FRIEND?



WE GOT A NICE RACKET,
SELLING THE STOLEN WORMS
TO THE FISHERMEN. THEY
PAY HIGH PRICES... AND WE
CLEAN UP A
COUPLE OF
GRAND!

NO DICK IS
GONNA BUST UP
DAT RACKET!



YOU STAY LOCKED UP...
WHILE WE LOOK FER
YOUR BOY FRIEND!

OH! HOMER'S
IN DANGER! YOU'LL
KILL HIM!

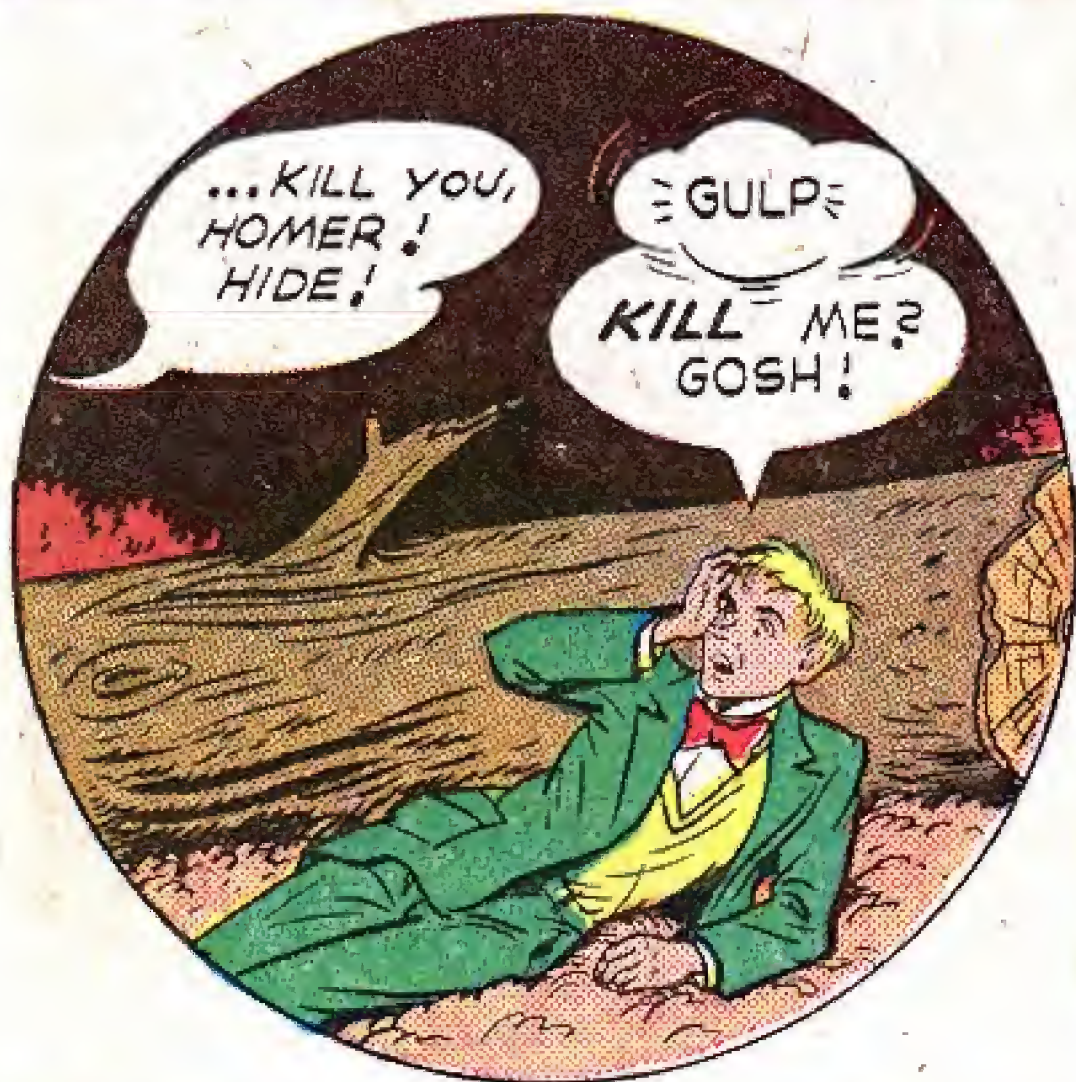


HOMER! LOOK OUT!
THEY'RE GOING TO
KILL YOU! HIDE!



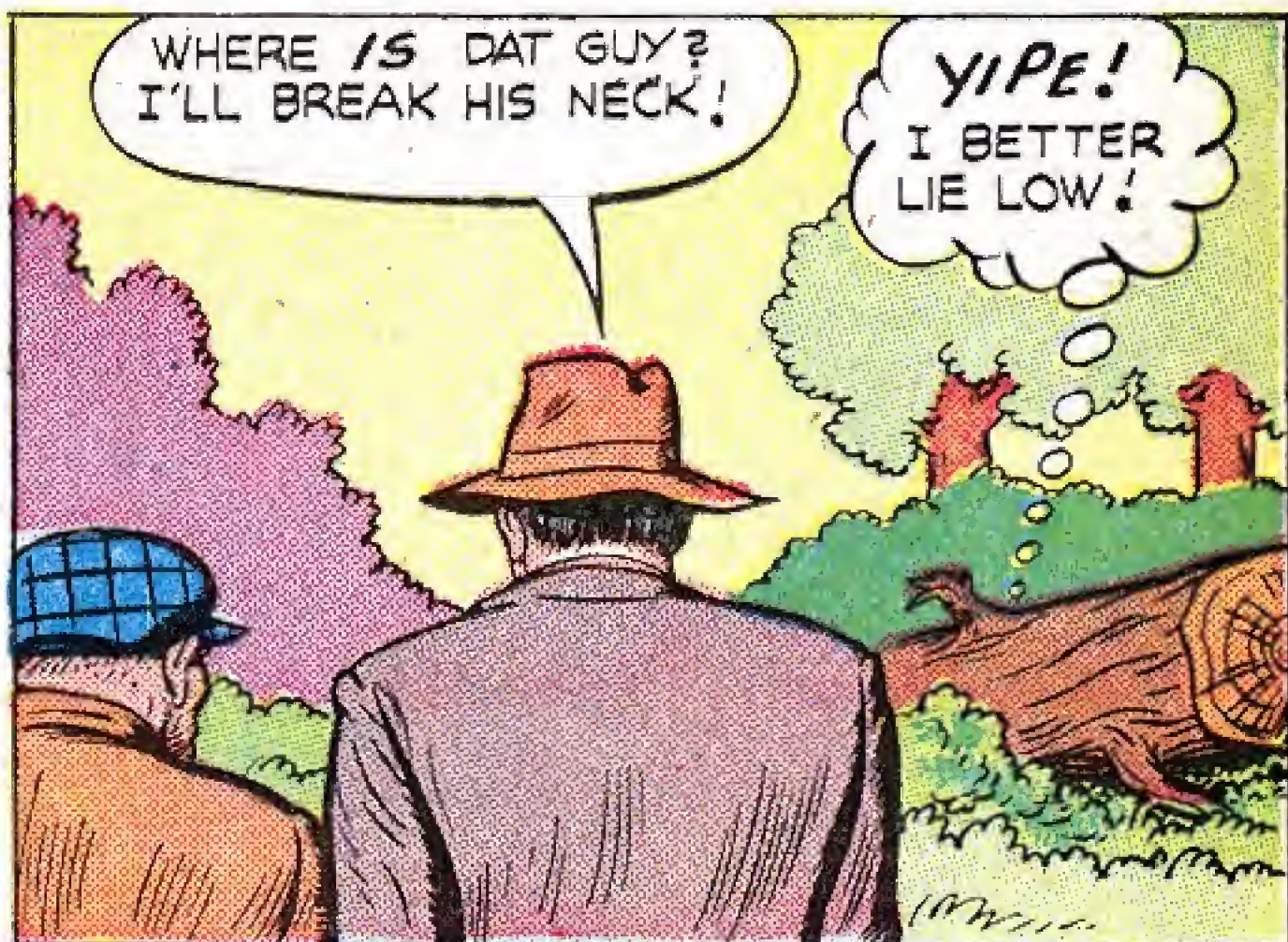
...KILL YOU,
HOMER!
HIDE!

GULP
KILL ME?
GOSH!

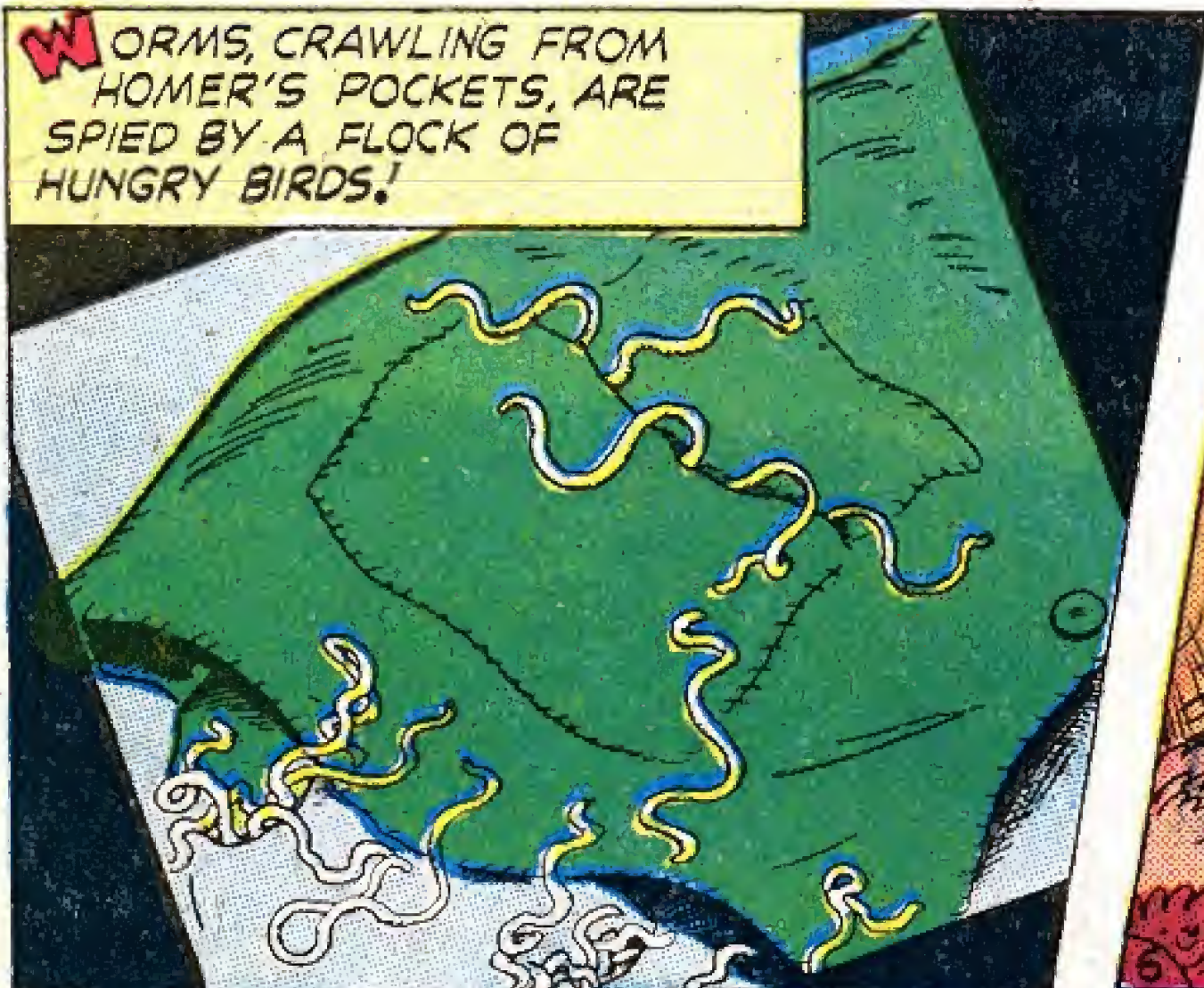


WHERE IS DAT GUY?
I'LL BREAK HIS NECK!

YIPE!
I BETTER
LIE LOW!

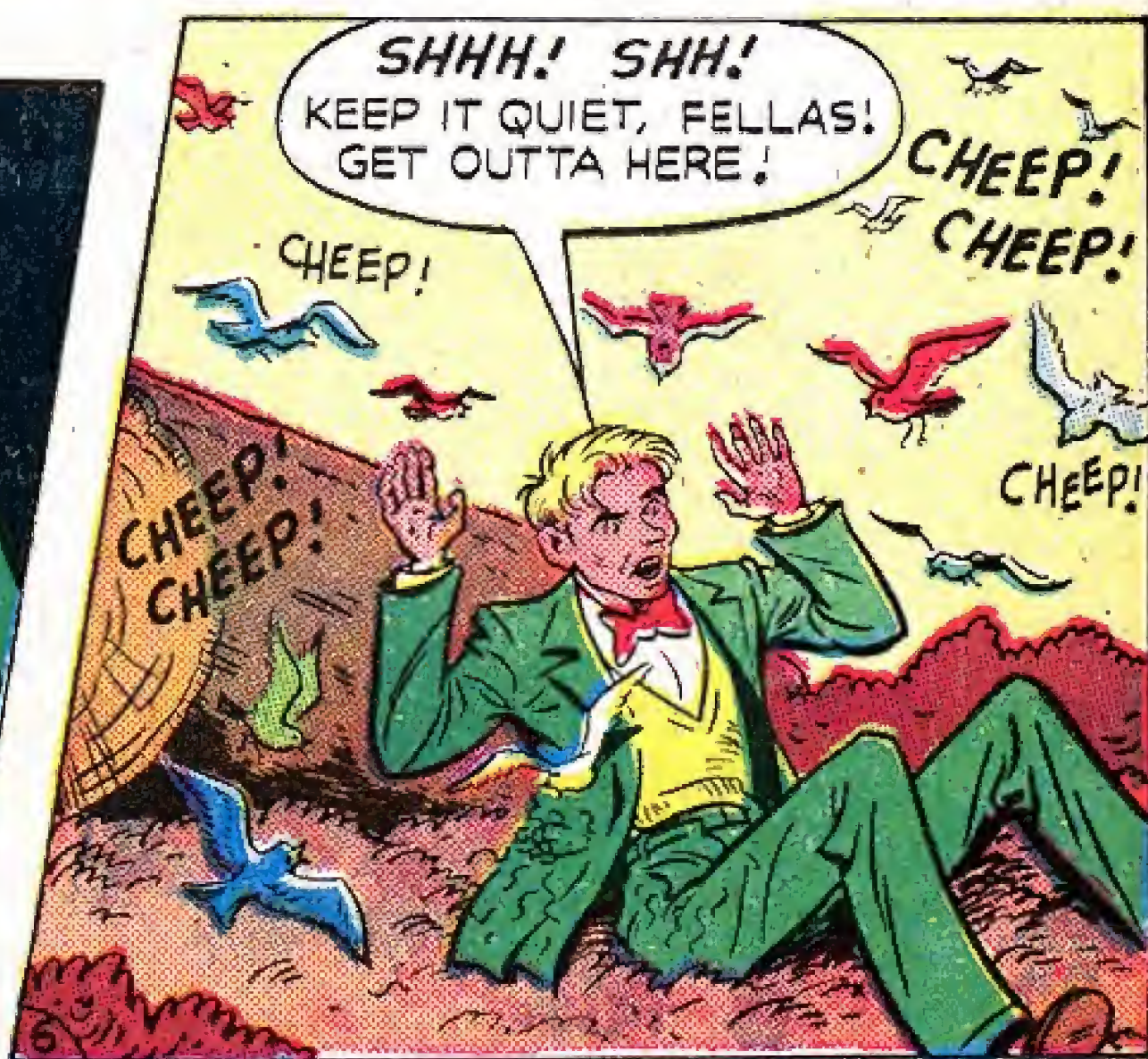


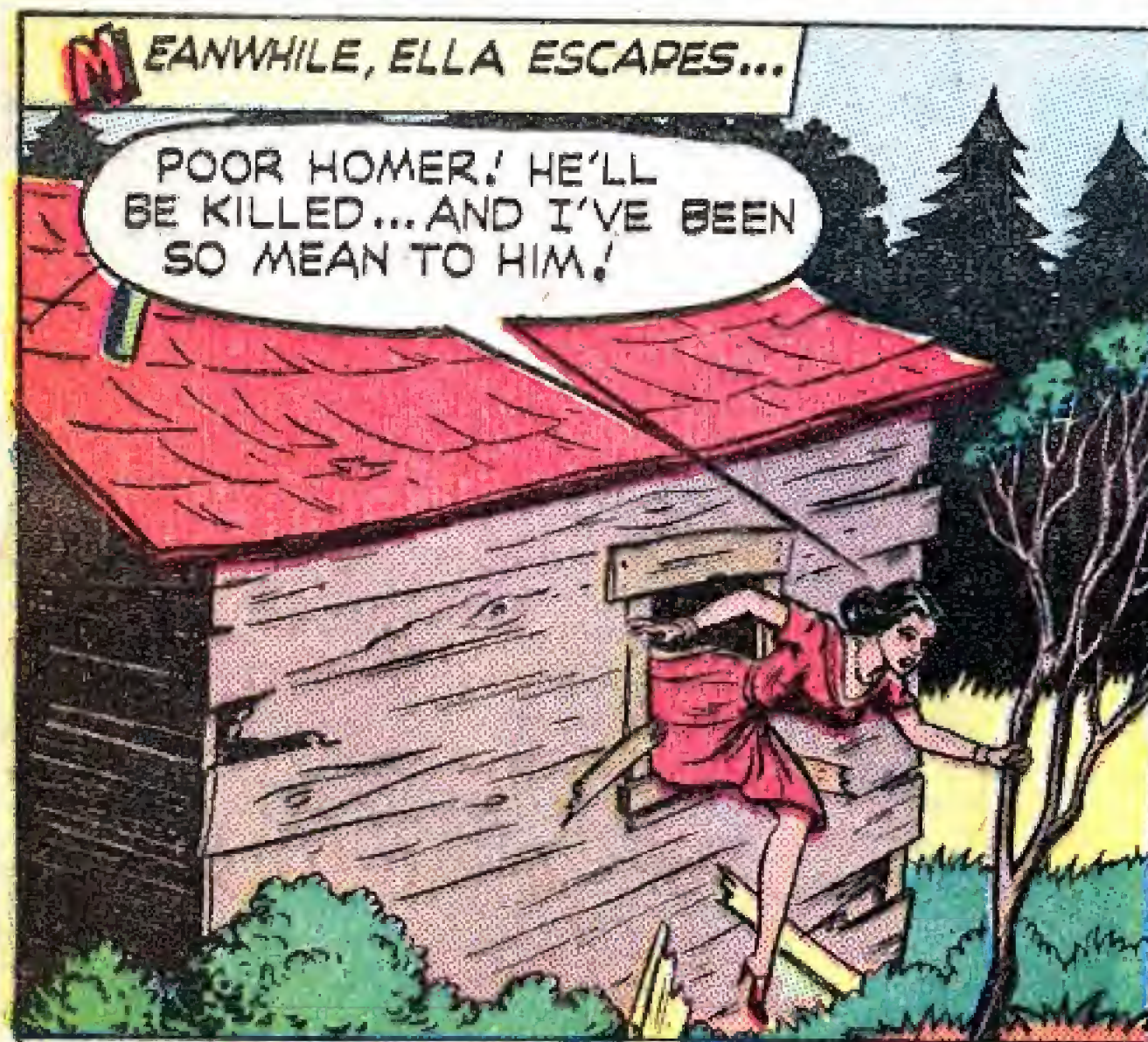
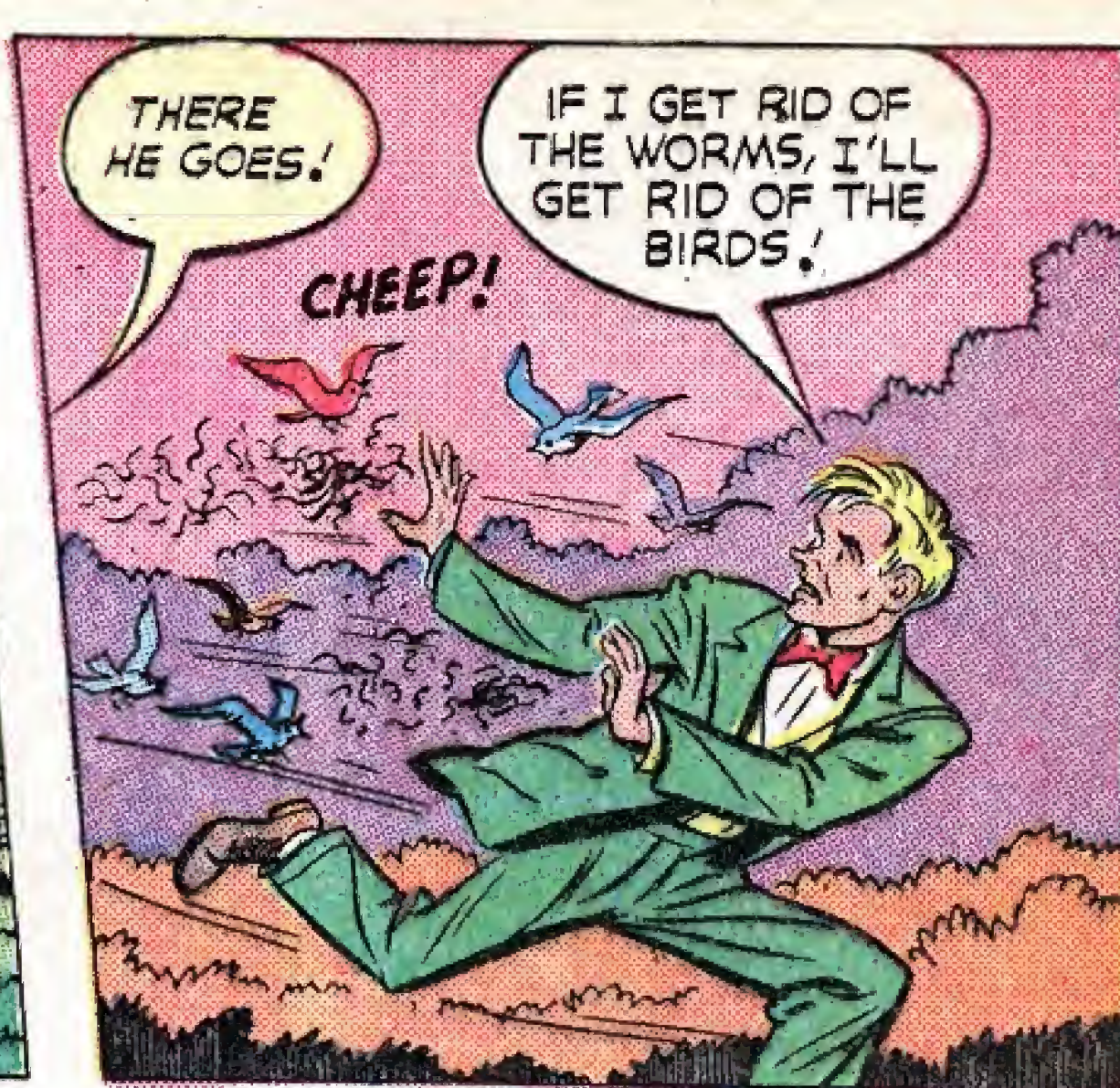
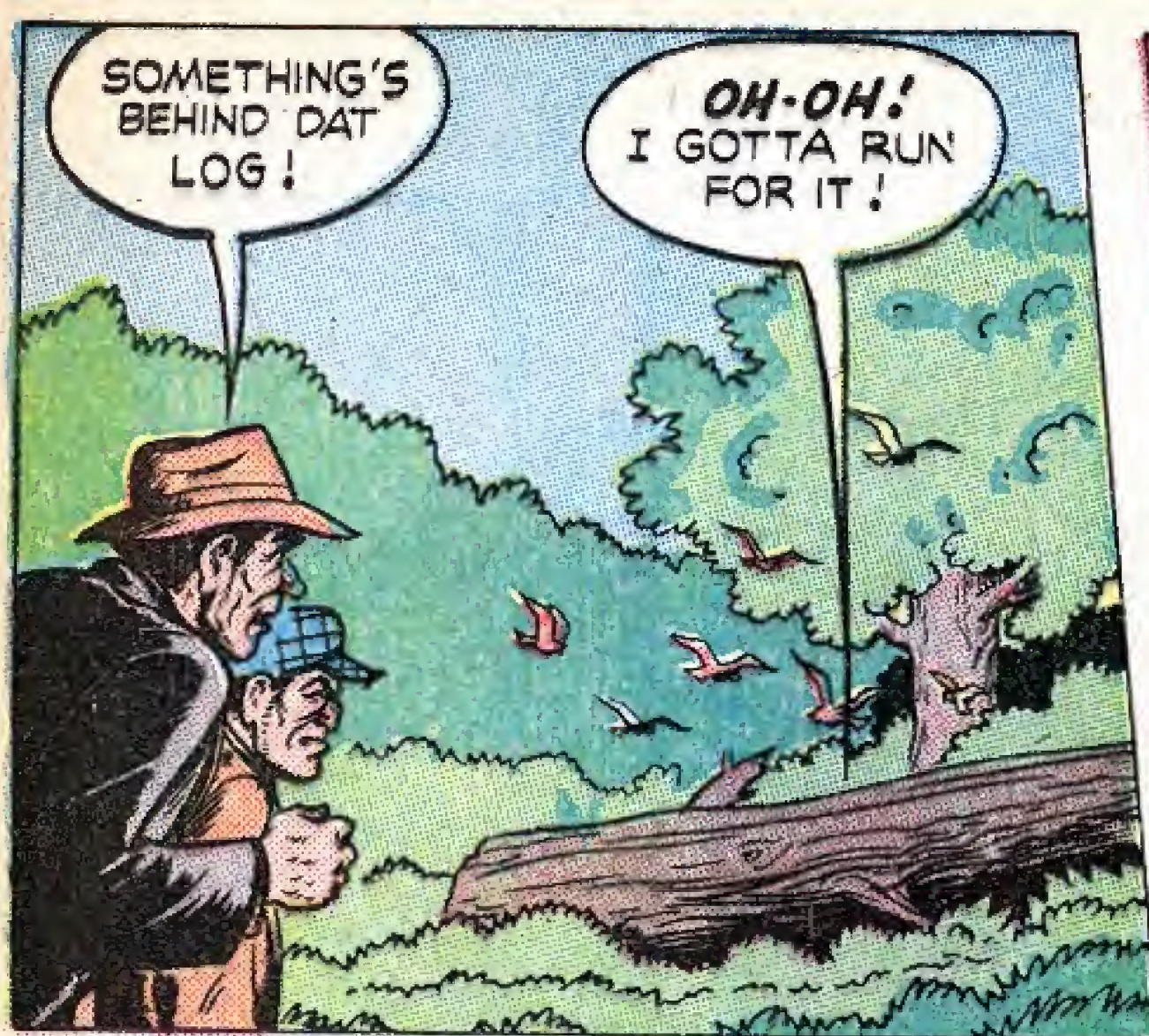
WORMS, CRAWLING FROM
HOMER'S POCKETS, ARE
SPIED BY A FLOCK OF
HUNGRY BIRDS!

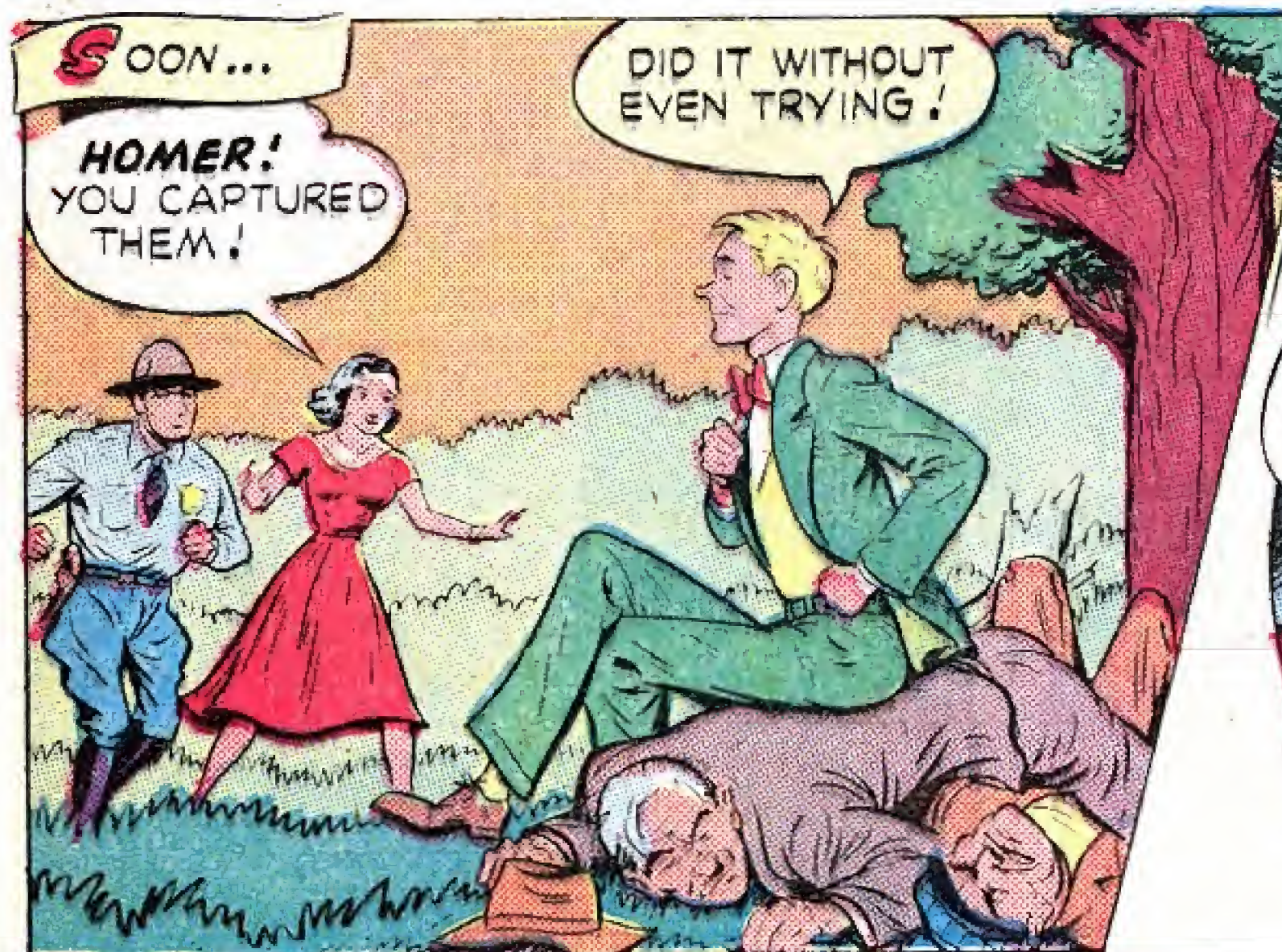
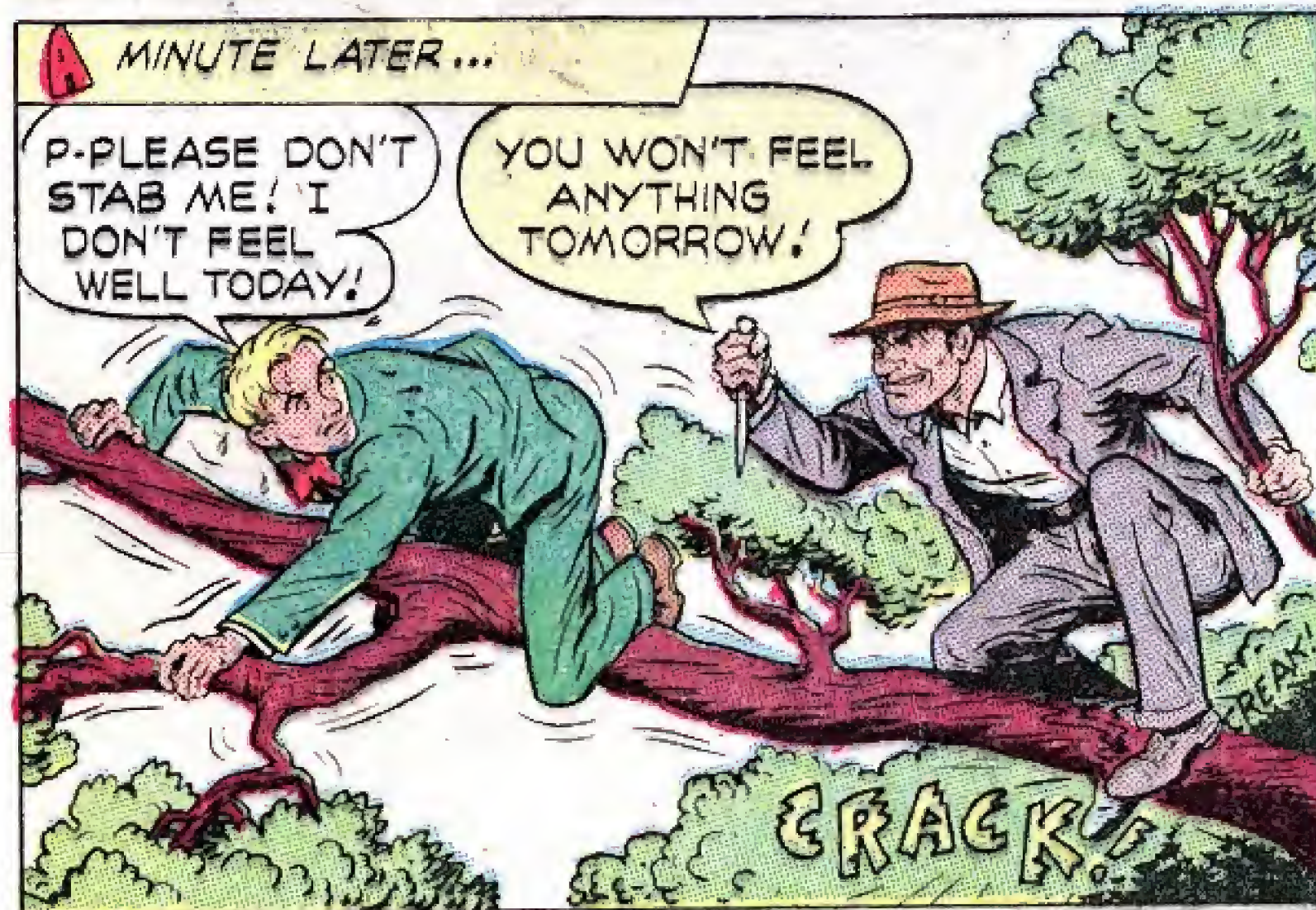


SHHH! SHH!
KEEP IT QUIET, FELLAS!
GET OUTTA HERE!

CHEEP!
CHEEP!



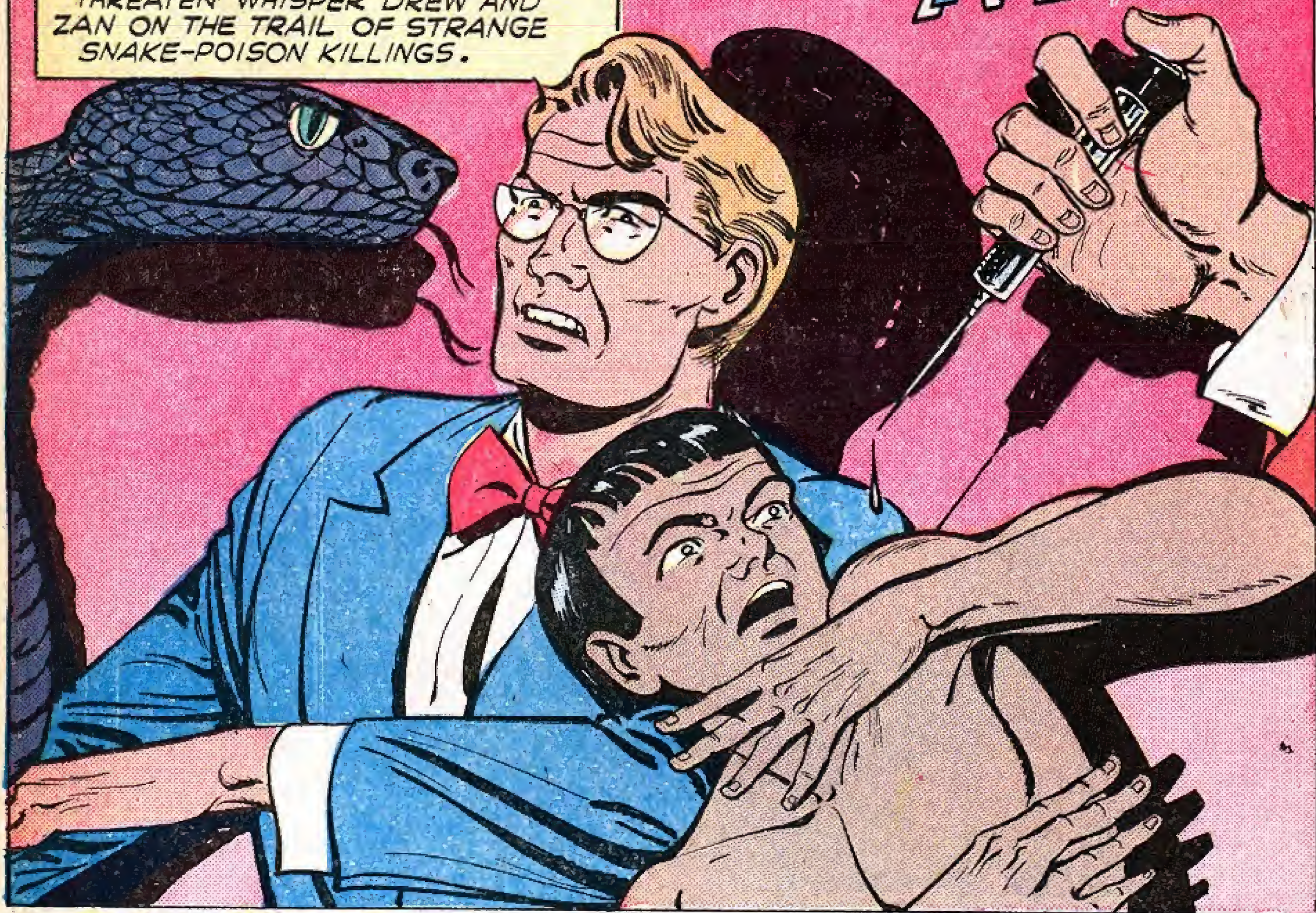




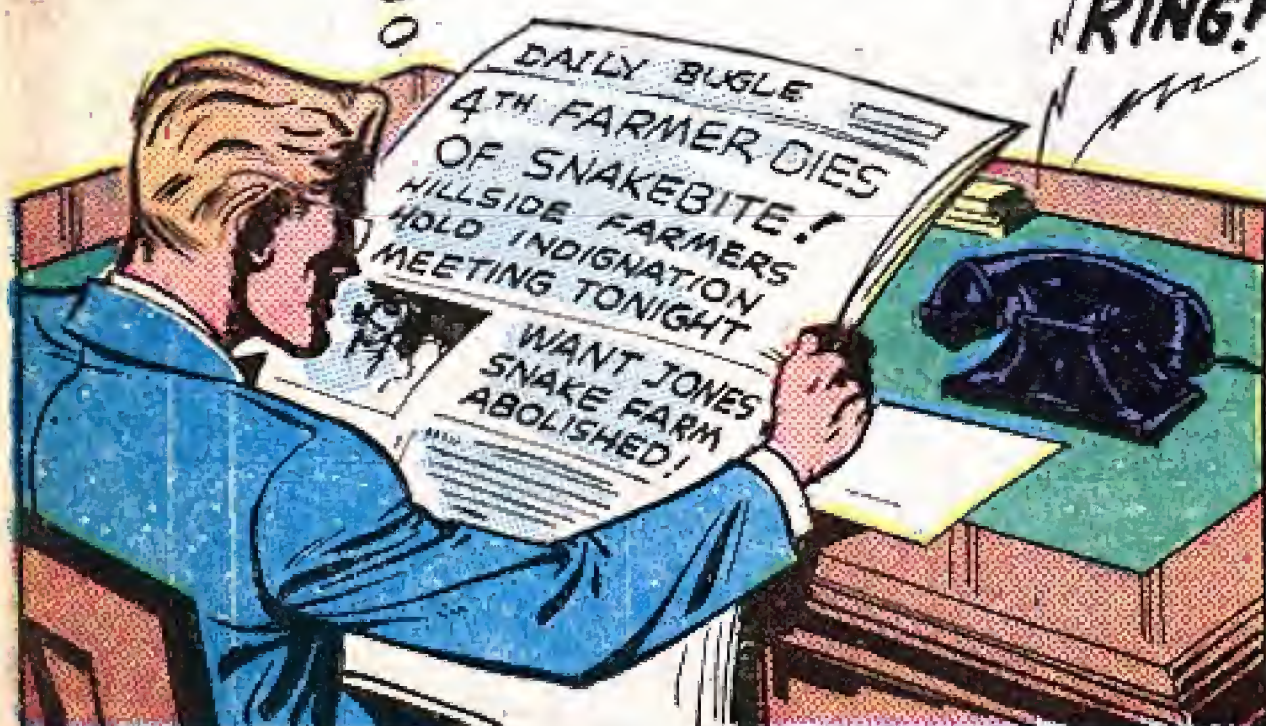
DR. DREW THE ZOO MAN

FANGS OF DEATH

THREATEN WHISPER DREW AND ZAN ON THE TRAIL OF STRANGE SNAKE-POISON KILLINGS.



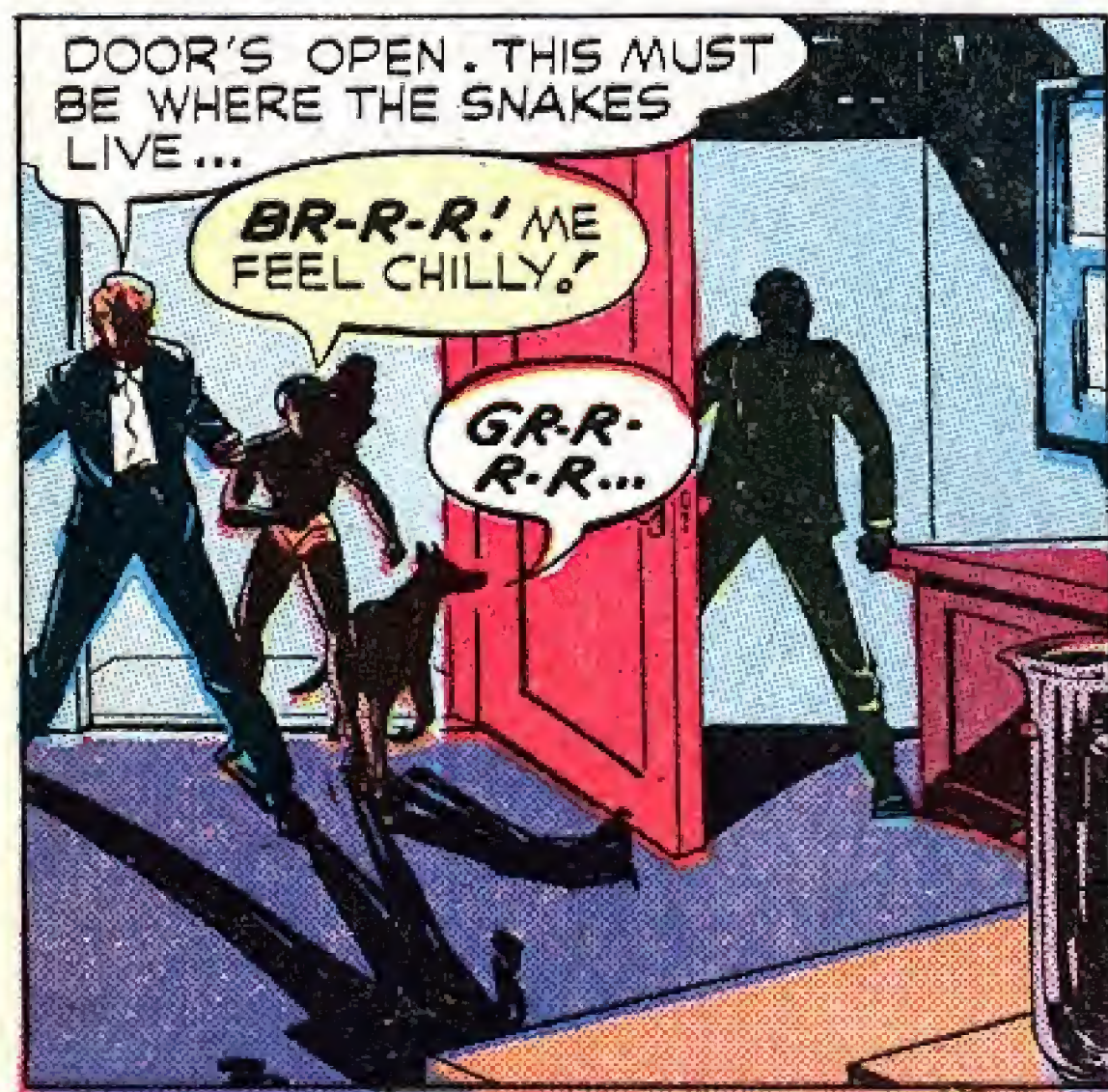
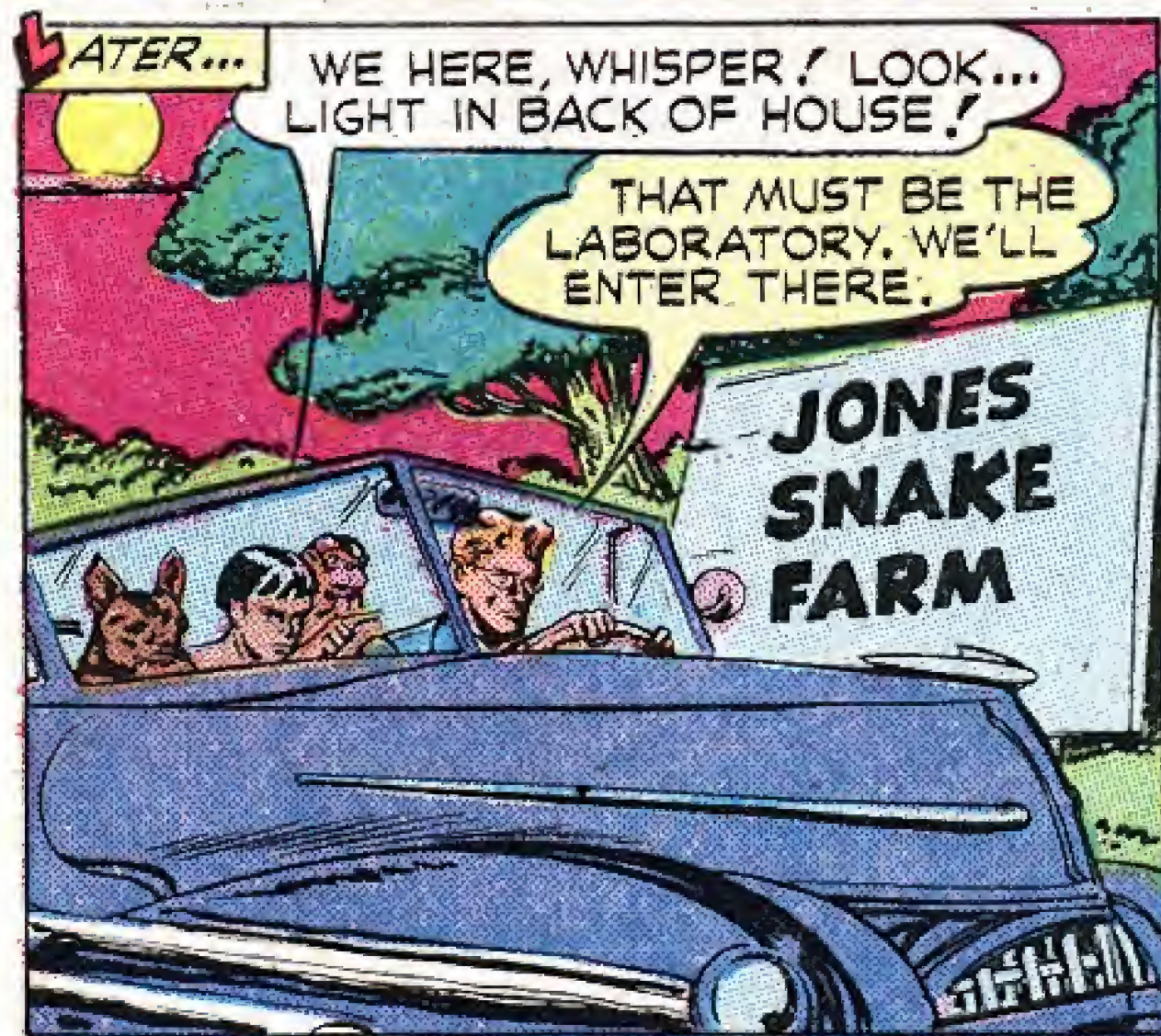
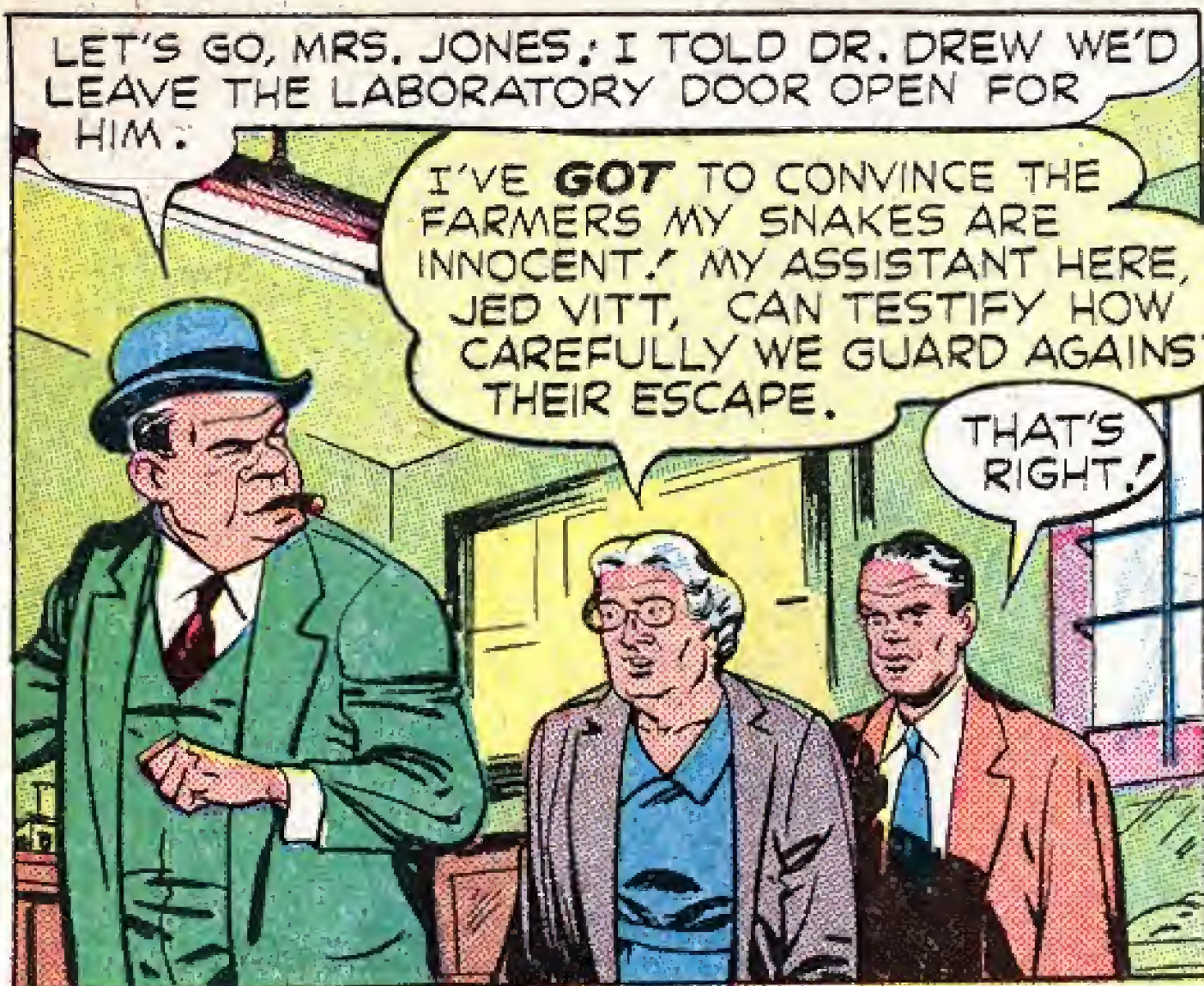
H'MMM...THIS IS THE CASE DETECTIVE SNOUPE SAID HE WAS GOING TO NEED HELP ON...

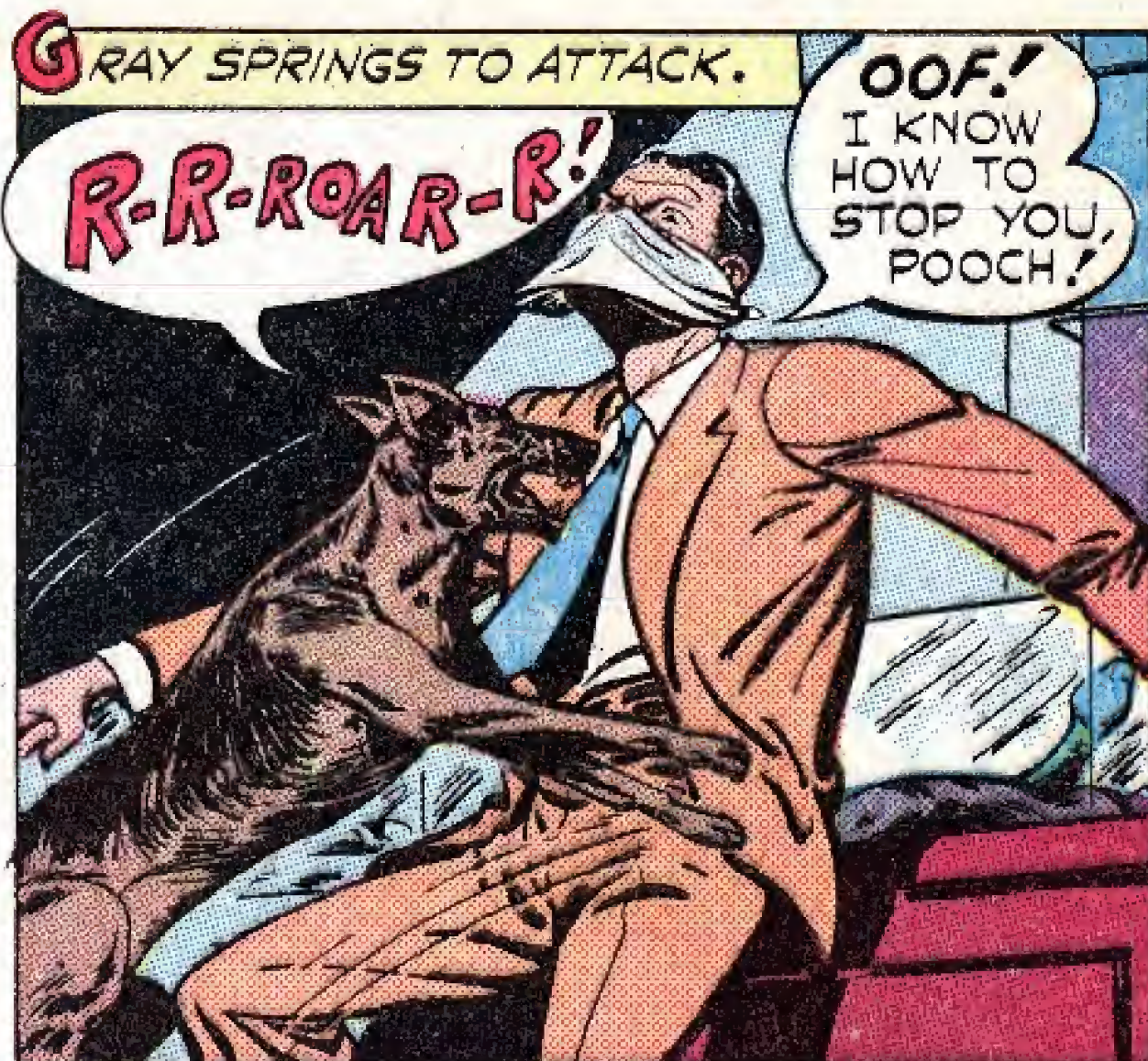
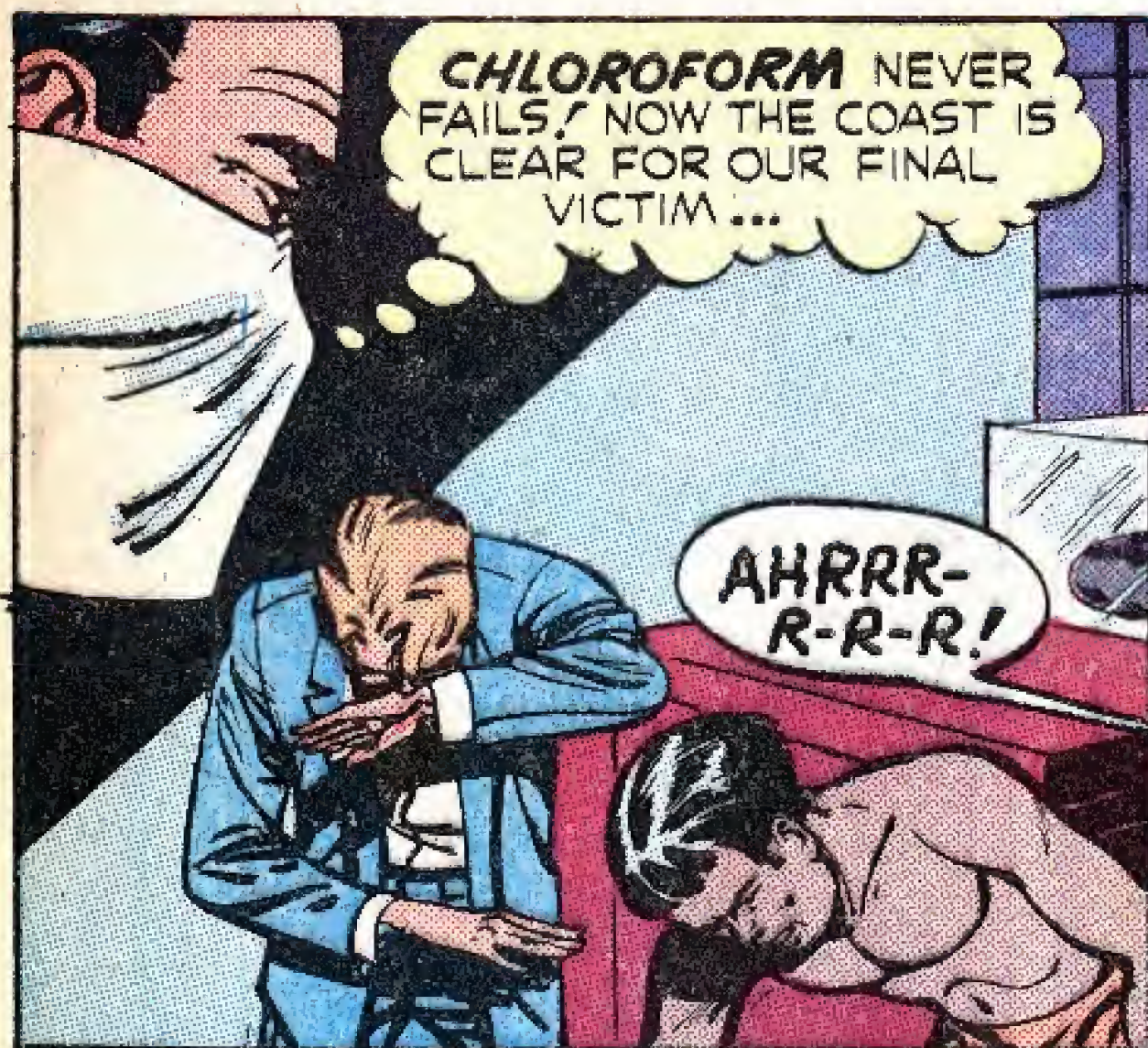


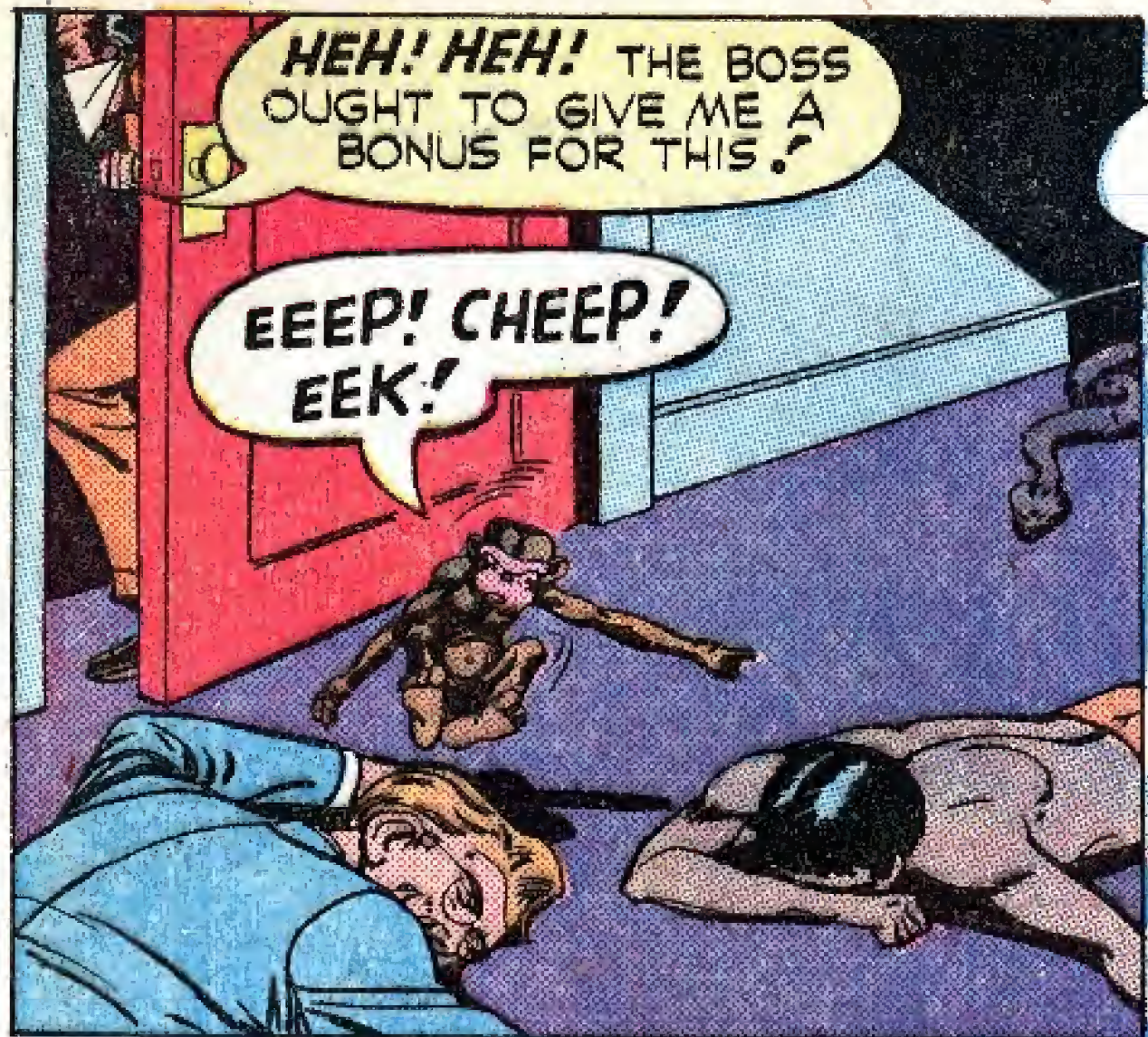
R-R-RING!



HELLO, WHISPER? I'M TAKING MRS. JONES TO THE INDIGNATION MEETING. MEANWHILE, CAN YOU GET DOWN HERE TO THE SNAKE FARM TO INVESTIGATE? GOOD!

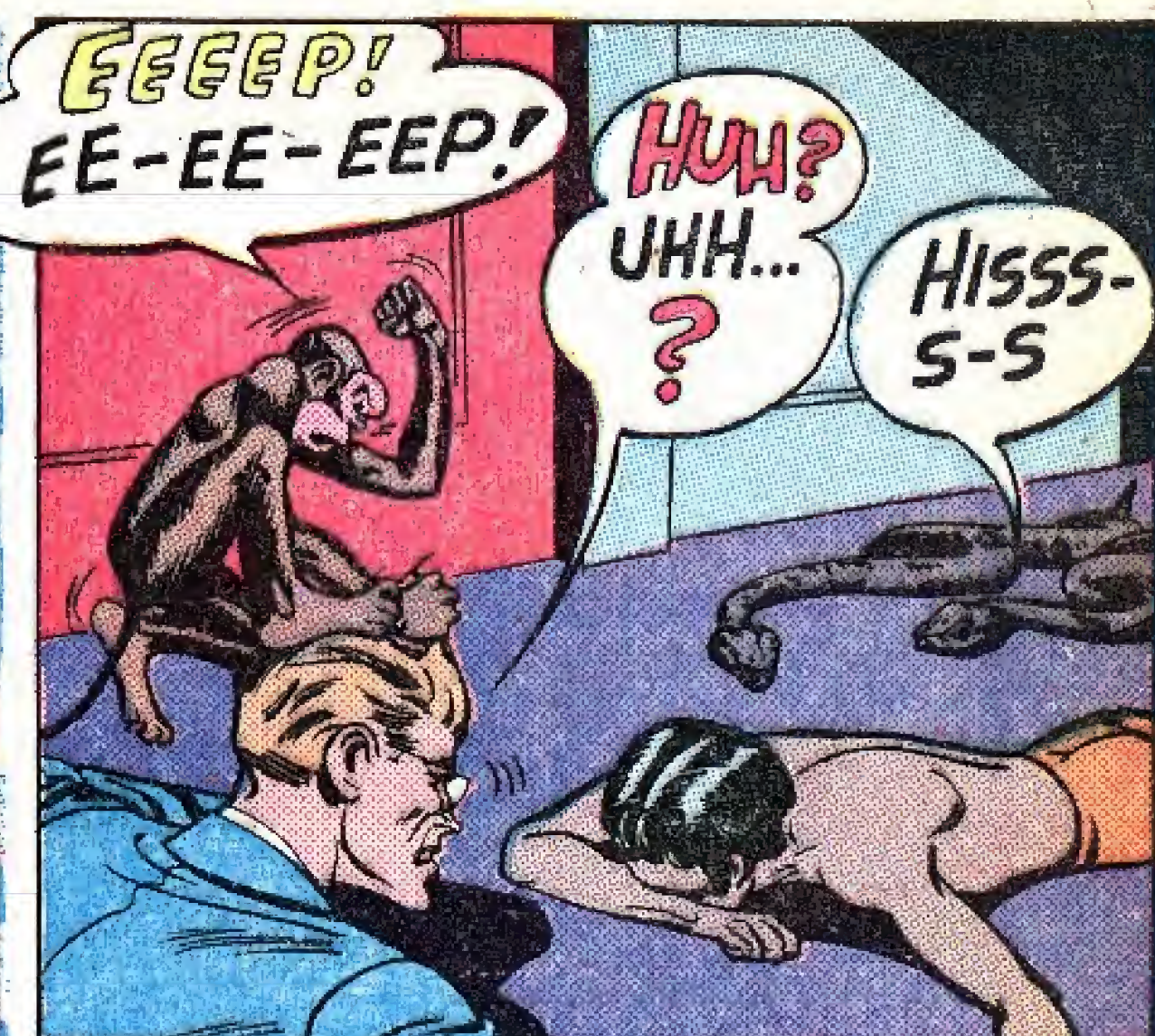






HEH! HEH! THE BOSS OUGHT TO GIVE ME A BONUS FOR THIS!

EEEEP! CHEEP! EEK!



EEEEEP! EE-EE-EEP!

HUH? UHH... ?

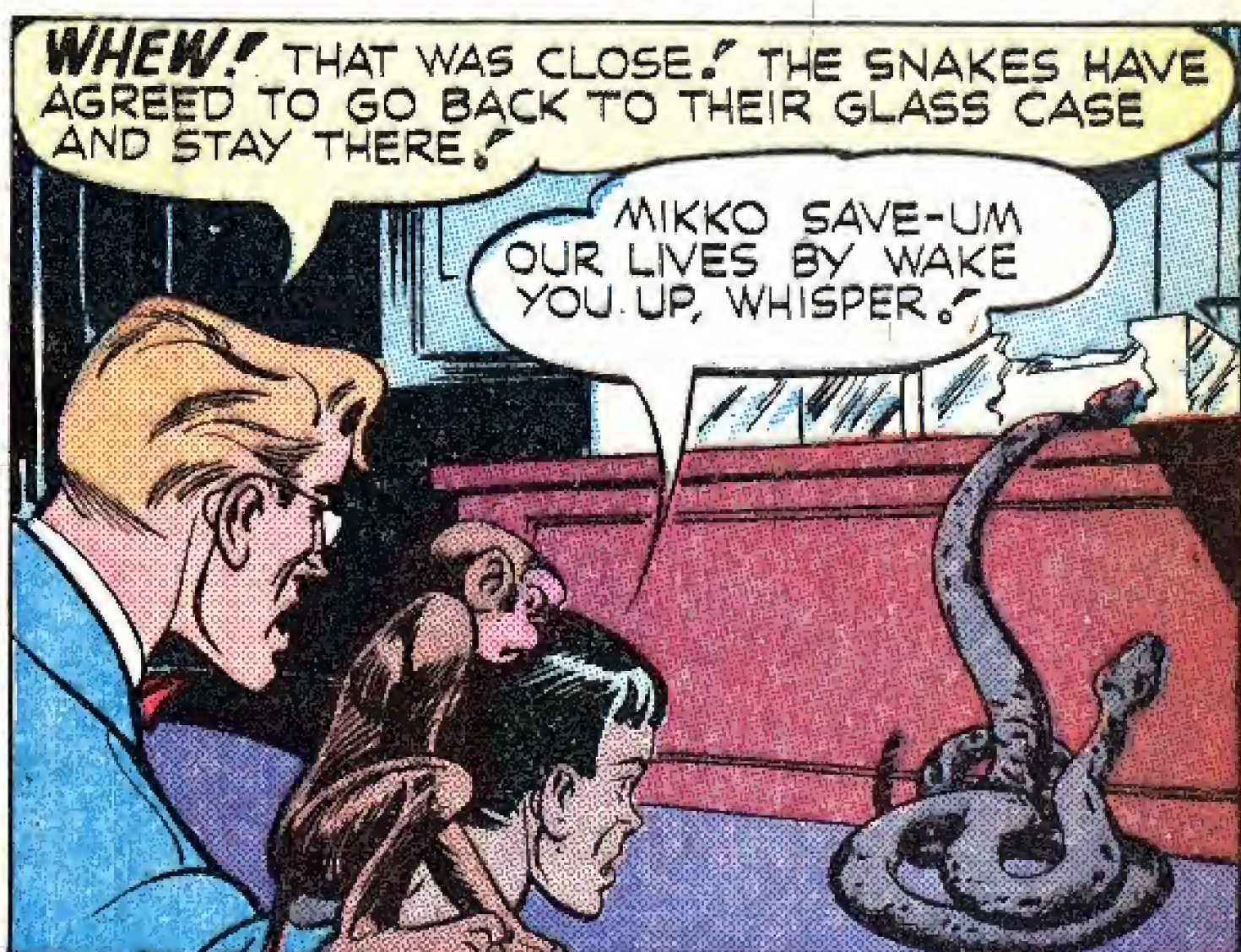
HISSS-S-S



HOLD IT, BROTHER COBRA! BZZZZZZZZ... BZZZZZZZZZ....

EEEEEP!

WHUZZA... ?



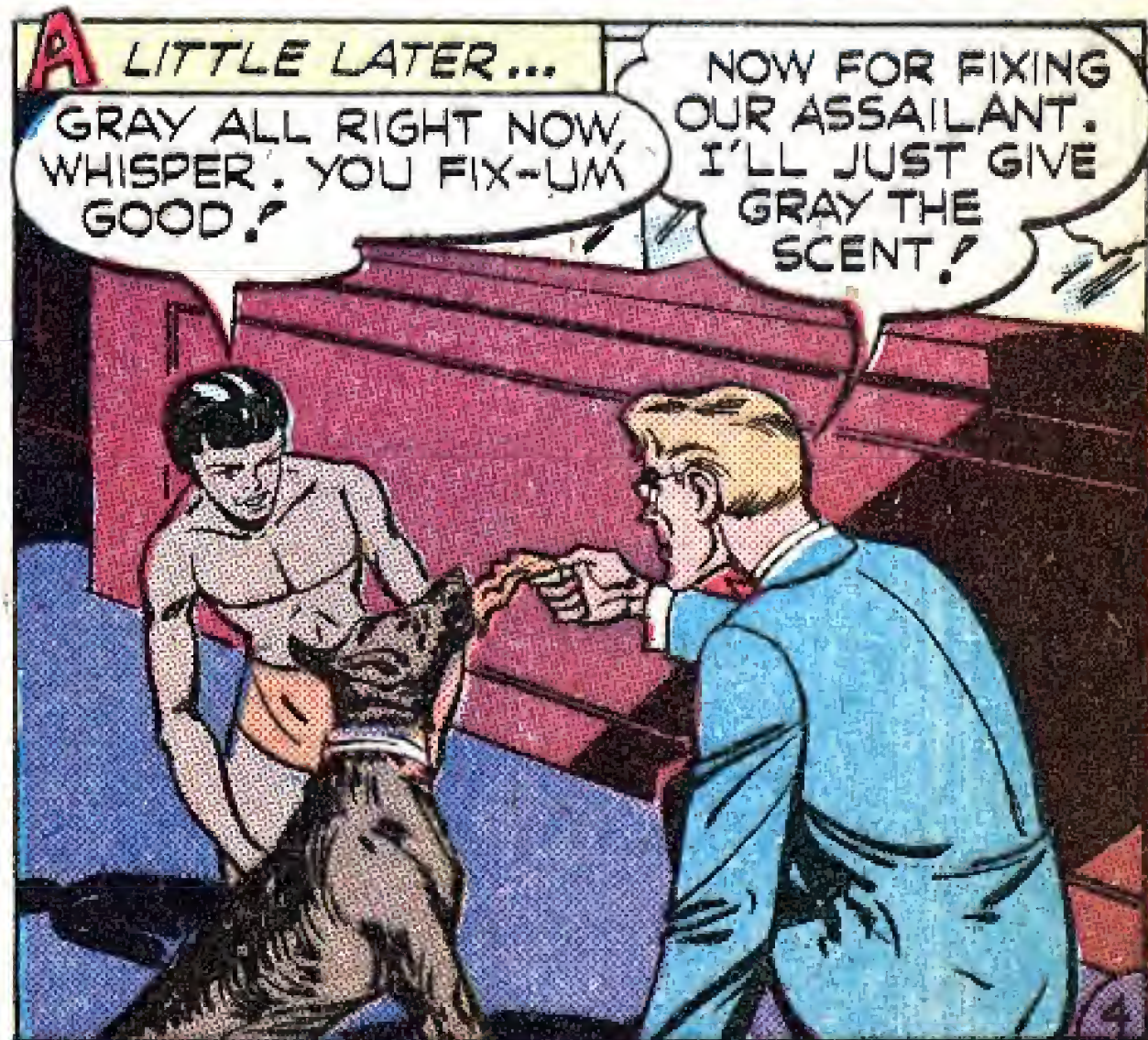
WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE! THE SNAKES HAVE AGREED TO GO BACK TO THEIR GLASS CASE AND STAY THERE!

MIKKO SAVE-UM OUR LIVES BY WAKE YOU UP, WHISPER!



LUCKILY, THE SNAKE THAT BIT GRAY DIDN'T SINK ITS FANGS DEEP. I'LL MAKE AN INCISION TO GET THE POISON OUT.

LOOK, WHISPER! GRAY HAS PATCH FROM EVIL MAN'S COAT!



A LITTLE LATER...

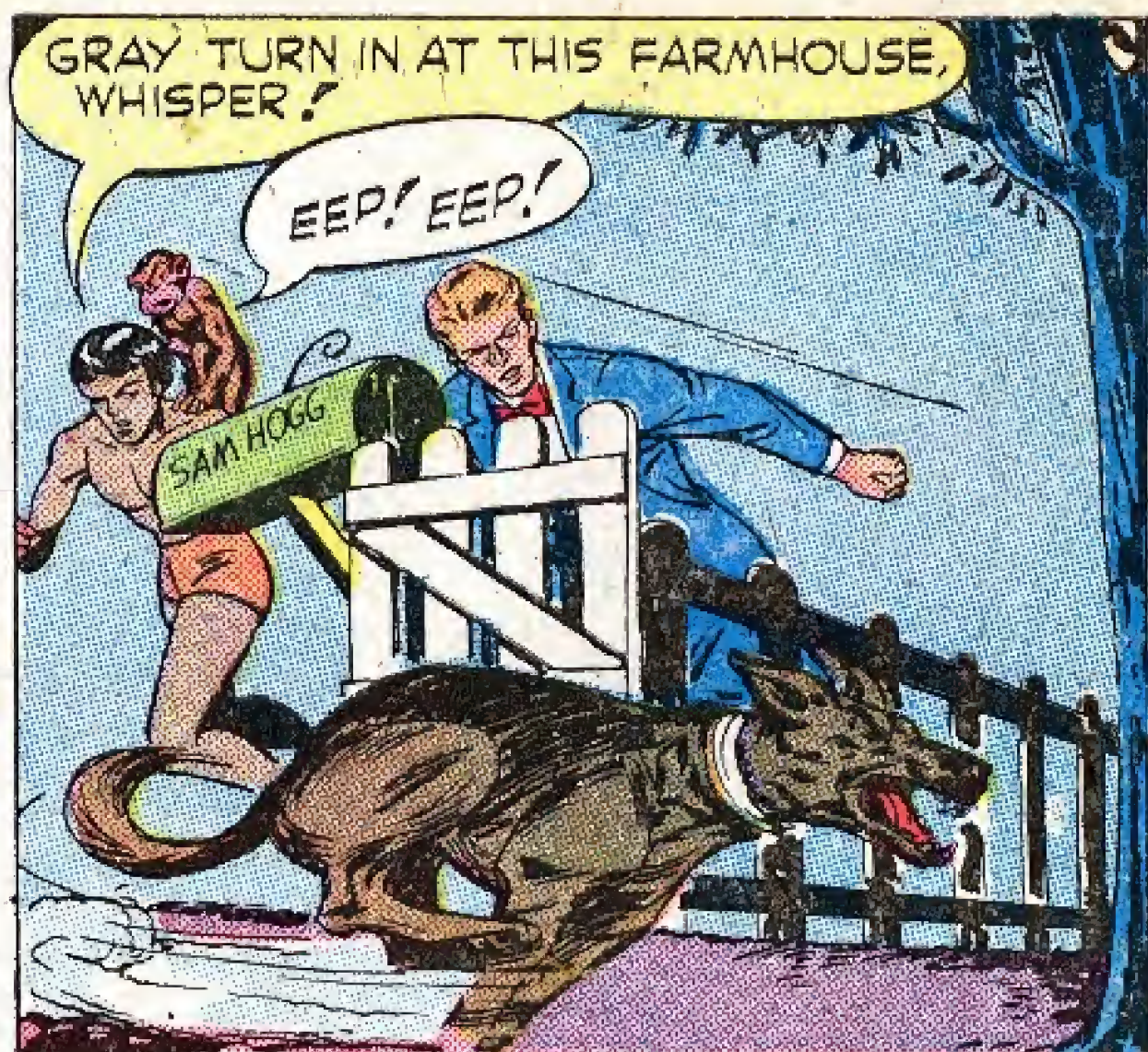
GRAY ALL RIGHT NOW WHISPER. YOU FIX-UM GOOD!

NOW FOR FIXING OUR ASSAILANT. I'LL JUST GIVE GRAY THE SCENT!



HE'S GOT IT!
GOOD BOY,
GRAY! FIND
HIM!

ARF! ARF! ARF!



GRAY TURN IN AT THIS FARMHOUSE,
WHISPER!

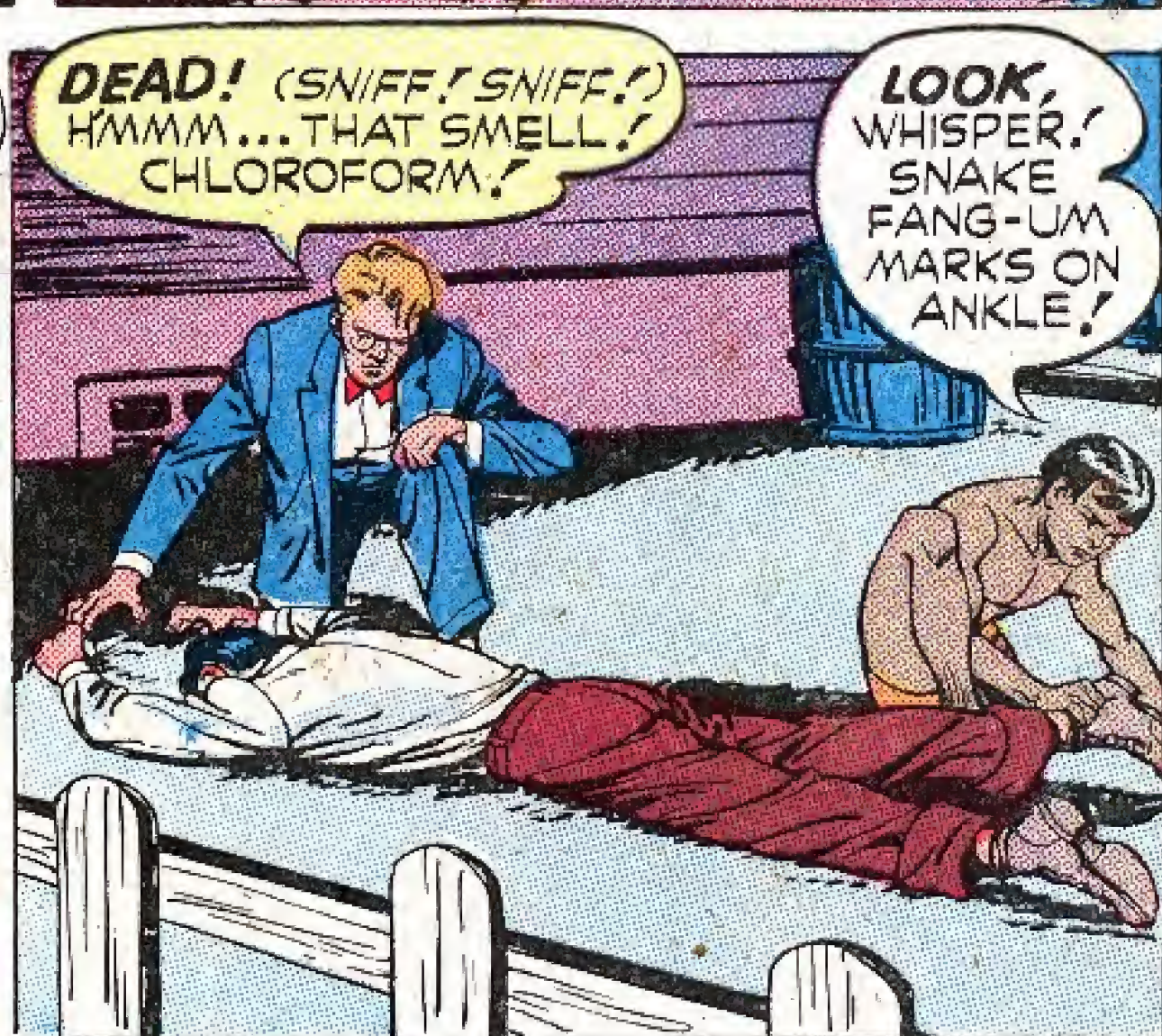
EEP! EEP!



HOWL-L-L!

GRAY FIND-UM
SOMETHING!

SOMETHING
TRAGIC, I'M
AFRAID!

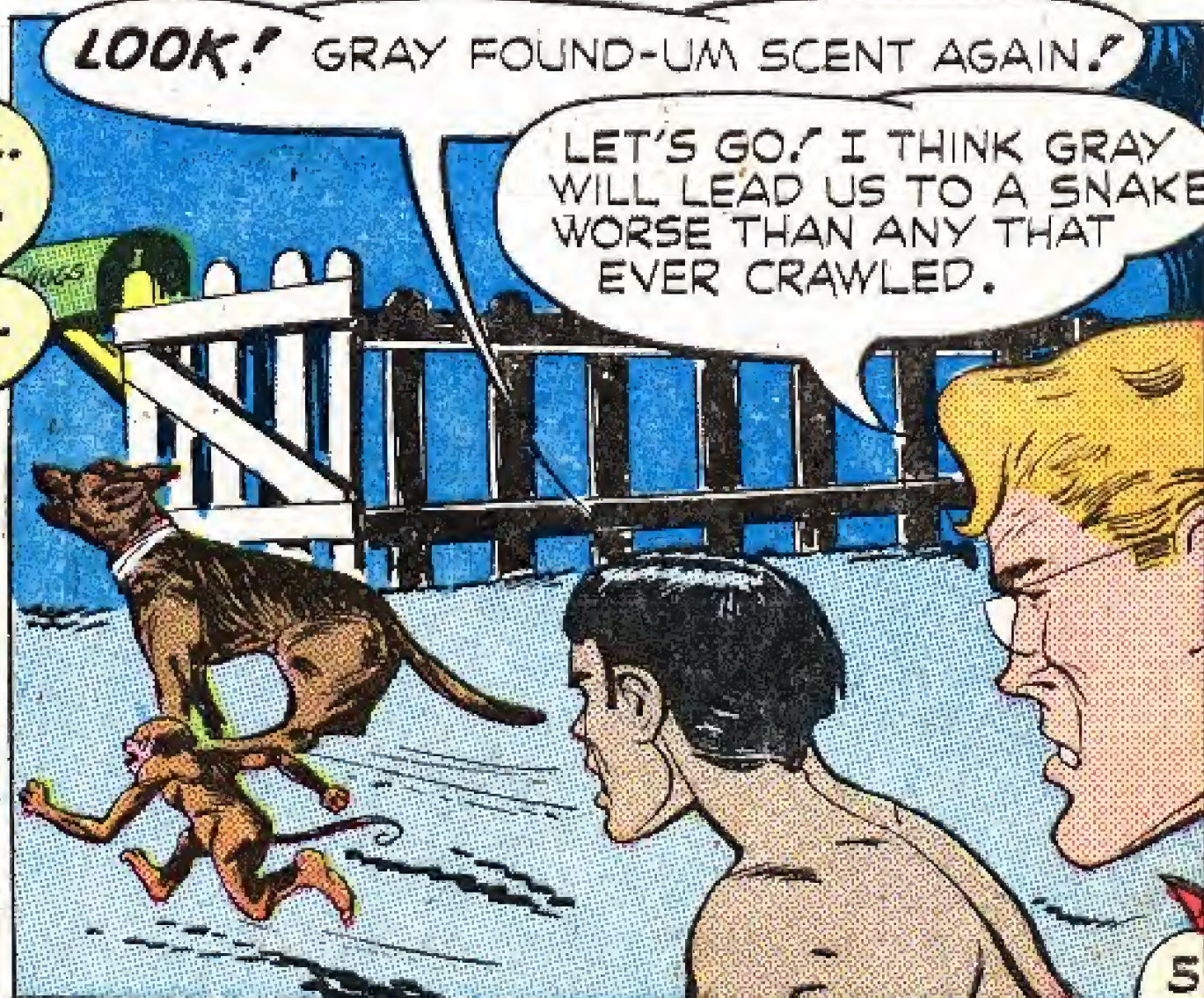


DEAD! (SNIFF! SNIFF!)
HMMM... THAT SMELL!
CHLOROFORM!

LOOK,
WHISPER!
SNAKE
FANG-UM
MARKS ON
ANKLE!



ODD! OBVIOUSLY
BITTEN BY A
POISONOUS SNAKE...
YET I NEVER SAW
FANG MARKS **THAT**
WIDE APART. AND
THE CHLOROFORM...
HMMM...



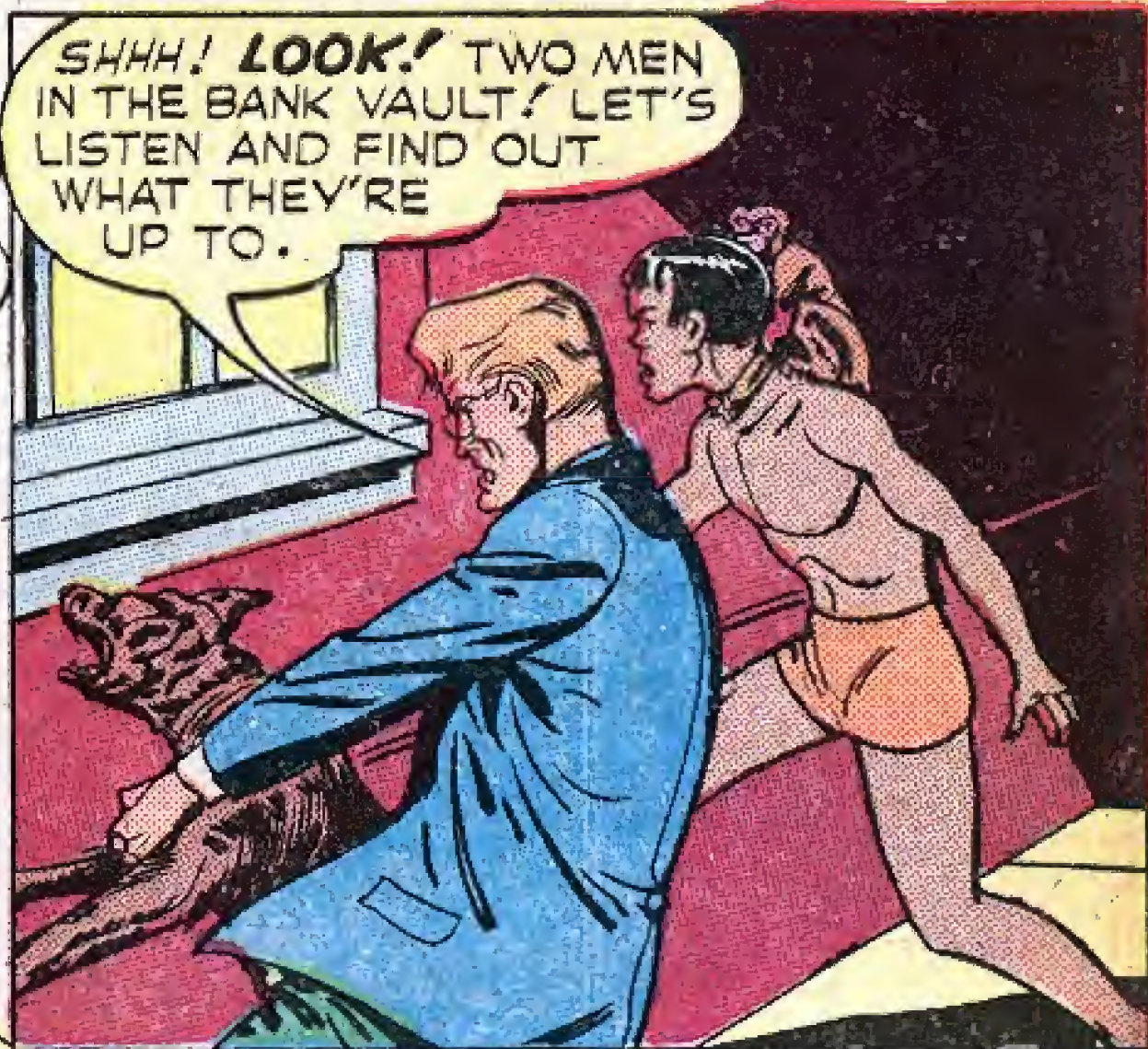
LOOK! GRAY FOUND-UM SCENT AGAIN!

LET'S GO! I THINK GRAY
WILL LEAD US TO A SNAKE
WORSE THAN ANY THAT
EVER CRAWLED.

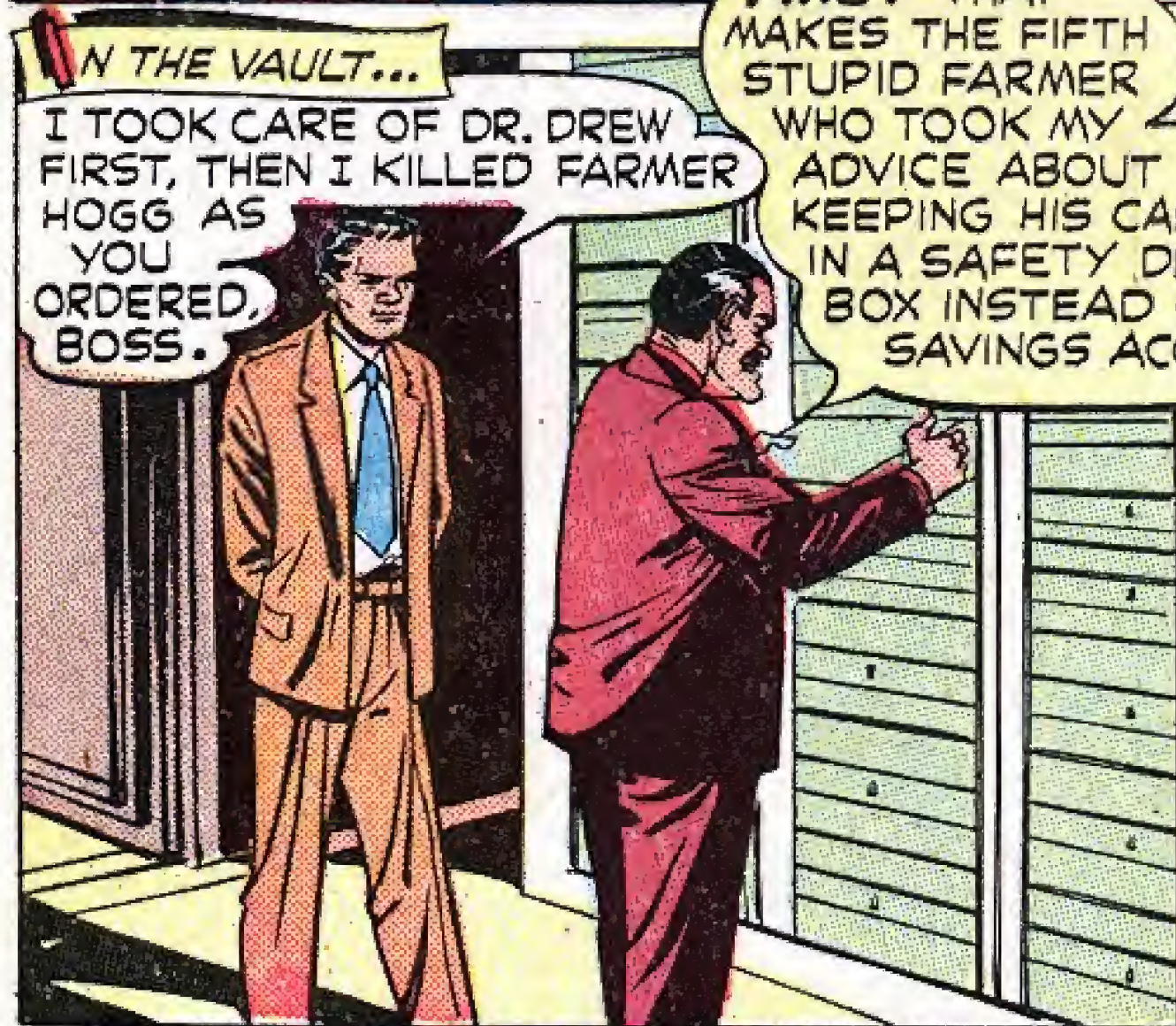


GRAY HEADING STRAIGHT-UM FOR BANK!

THE GRANGE IS DARK. INDIGNATION MEETING IS OVER... BUT THERE'S A LIGHT IN THE REAR OF THE BANK, ZAN! WE'LL GO IN THE FRONT WAY.



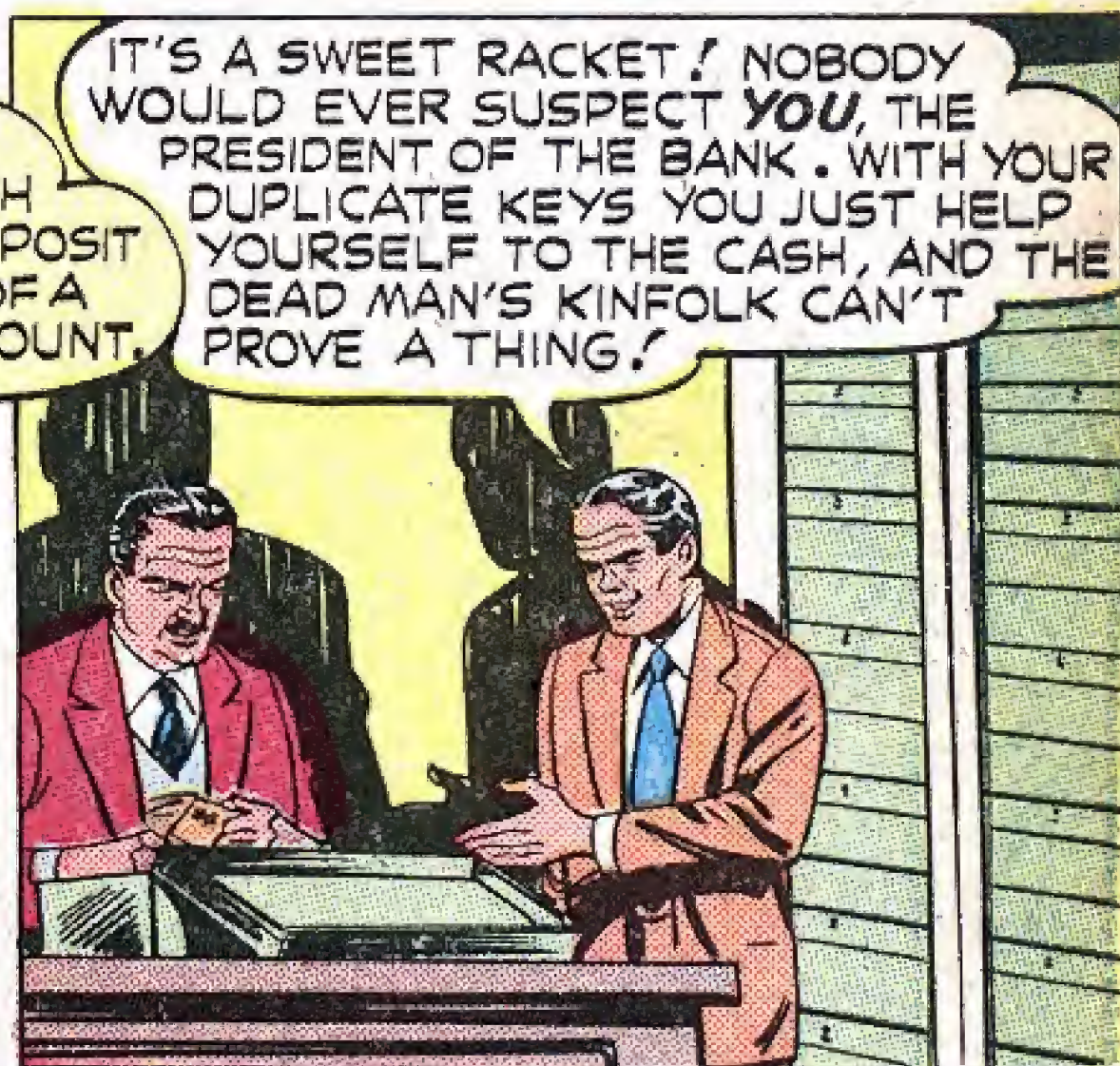
SHHH! LOOK! TWO MEN IN THE BANK VAULT! LET'S LISTEN AND FIND OUT WHAT THEY'RE UP TO.



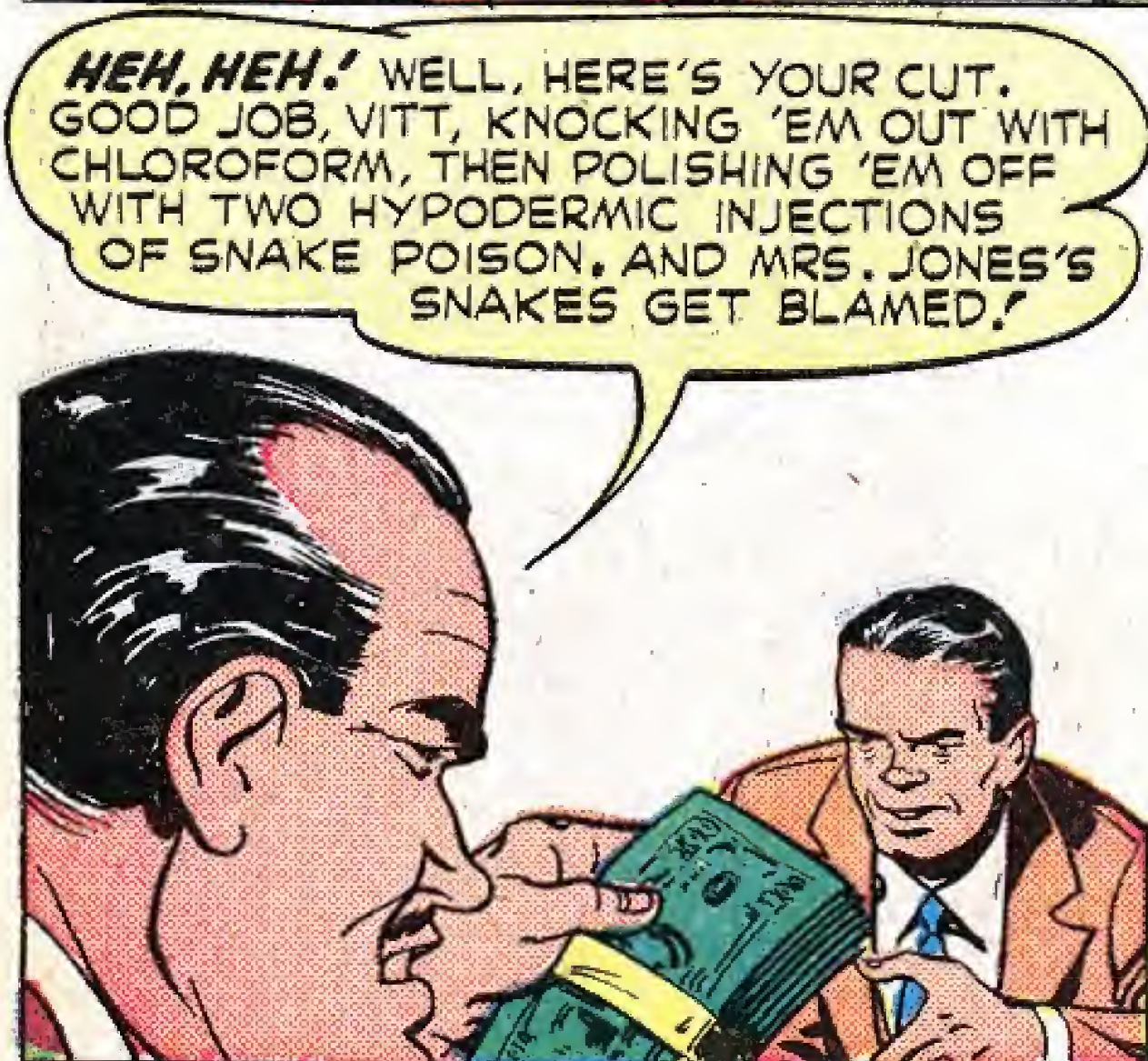
IN THE VAULT...

I TOOK CARE OF DR. DREW FIRST, THEN I KILLED FARMER HOGG AS YOU ORDERED, BOSS.

FINE! THAT MAKES THE FIFTH STUPID FARMER WHO TOOK MY ADVICE ABOUT KEEPING HIS CASH IN A SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX INSTEAD OF A SAVINGS ACCOUNT.



IT'S A SWEET RACKET! NOBODY WOULD EVER SUSPECT YOU, THE PRESIDENT OF THE BANK. WITH YOUR DUPLICATE KEYS YOU JUST HELP YOURSELF TO THE CASH, AND THE DEAD MAN'S KINFOLK CAN'T PROVE A THING!



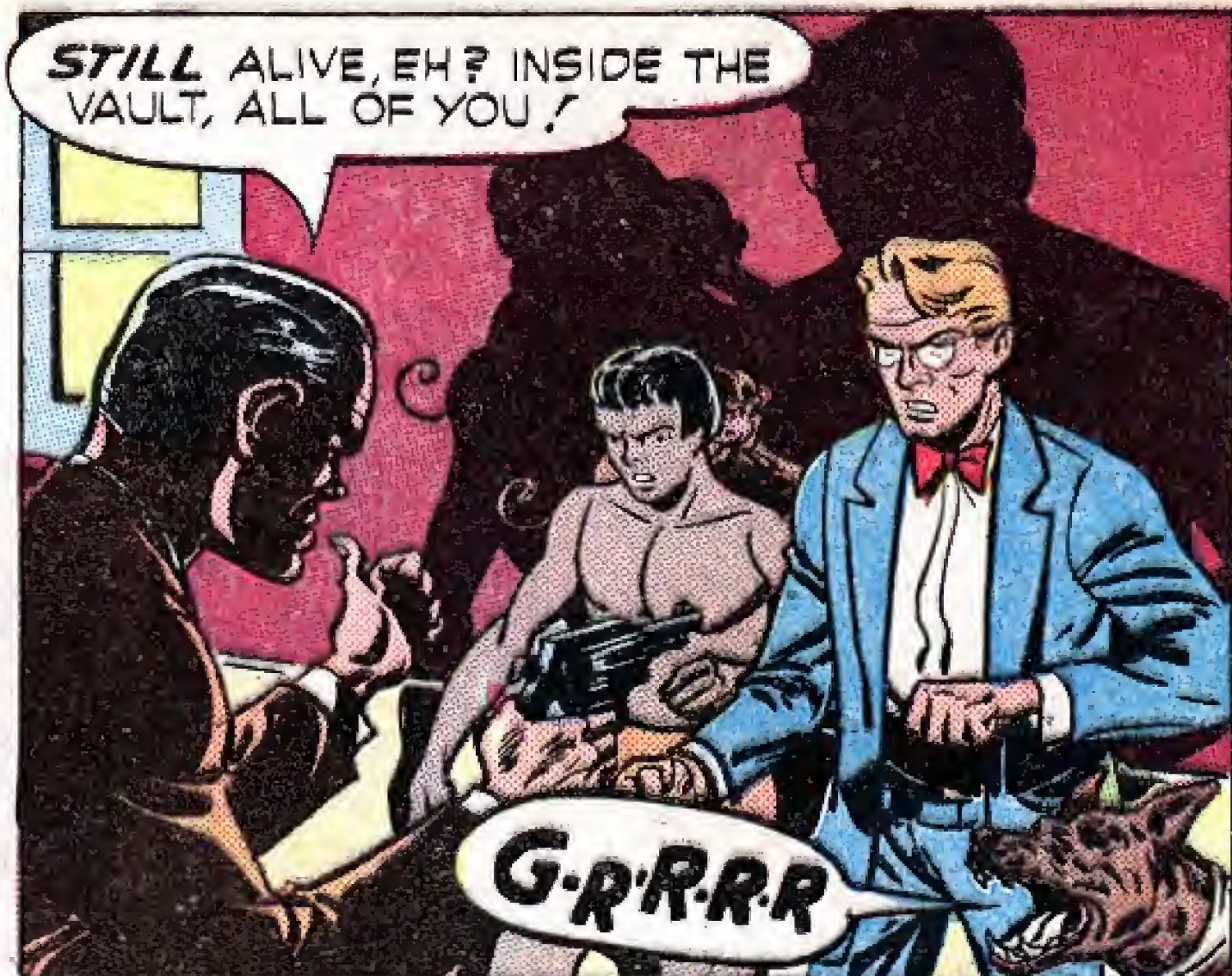
HEH, HEH! WELL, HERE'S YOUR CUT. GOOD JOB, VITT, KNOCKING 'EM OUT WITH CHLOROFORM, THEN POLISHING 'EM OFF WITH TWO HYPODERMIC INJECTIONS OF SNAKE POISON. AND MRS. JONES'S SNAKES GET BLAMED!



AT-TCHEW WWW!

THAT WAS A SNEEZE!

WE'RE BEING SPIED ON! GET 'EM, VITT!



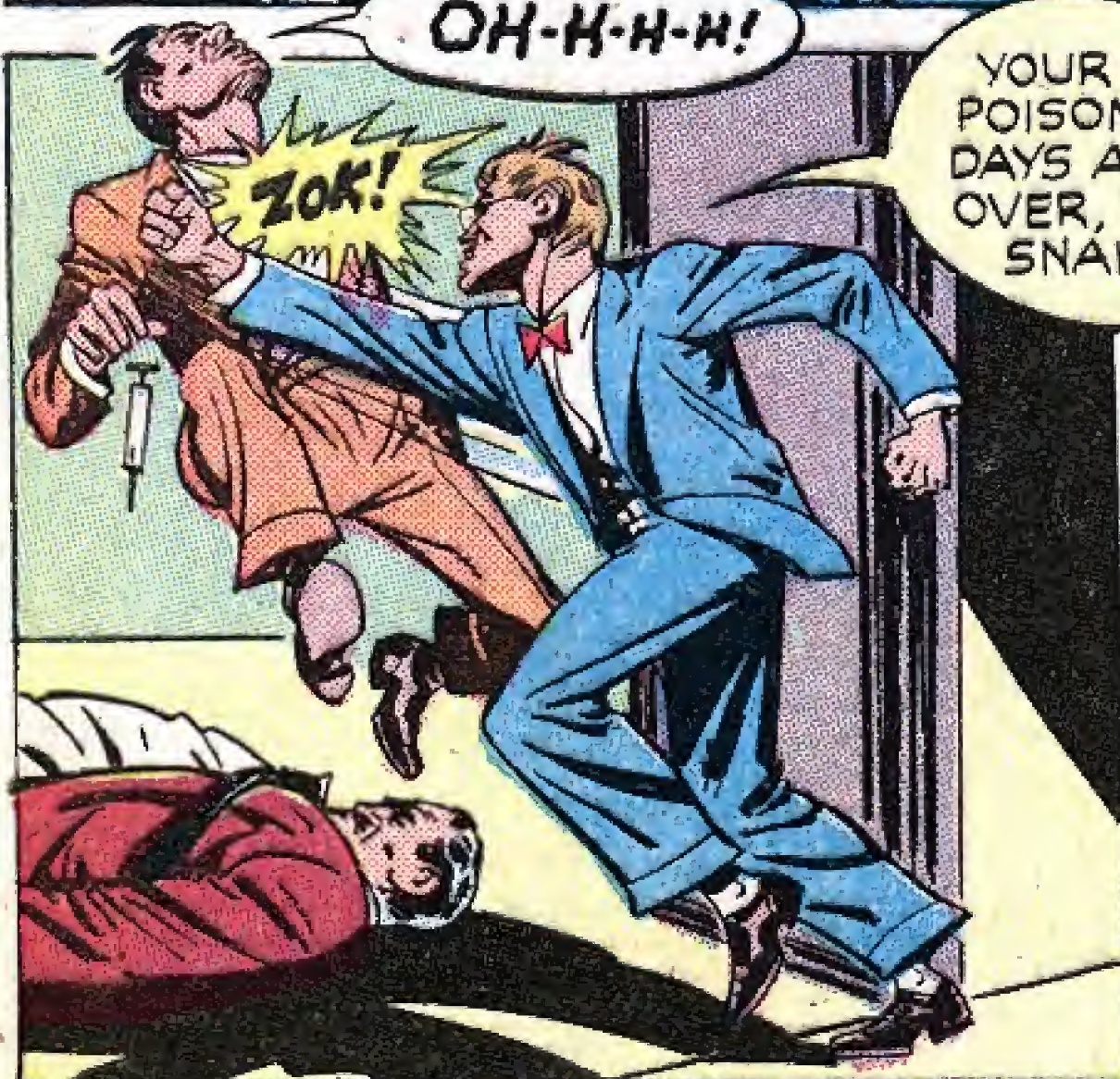
IN YOU GO! EVERY BREATH WILL SPEED YOUR DEATH!



SOMETHING'S UP! HE HASN'T CLOSED THE DOOR! I'LL JUST SWING THIS HANDLE SHARPLY!



OH-H-H-H!



YOUR POISONING DAYS ARE OVER, YOU SNAKE!

BUT MIKKO SUDDENLY SPRINGS DOWN FROM THE CHANDELIER... AND...



LATER...

I'M SO GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR ARRESTING THE REAL CRIMINALS, AND SAVING MY FARM, DETECTIVE SNOUPE! WON'T YOU ACCEPT THIS PET AS A GIFT?

ER... NO THANK YOU! I'VE HAD ENOUGH TROUBLE WITH TWO-LEGGED SNAKES!

SNOUPE SAID-UM MOUTHFUL!

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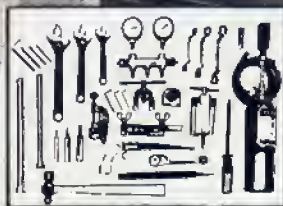
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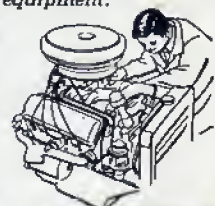
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